FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-216
Wednesday
8 November 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-216 CONTENTS *8 November 1995*

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Editorial on 'Myth' of Violence as Arab Trait *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Nov]* 1
Rabin Assassination Seen as 'Opportunity' for Labor *[London AL-HAYAH 6 Nov]* 1
Israel Urged To Move Against 'Extremists' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Nov]* 2
League Discusses U.S. Decision on Jerusalem *[MENA]* 3

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 31 Oct 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Renews Call For Restoring Arab Solidarity *[MENA]* 5
'Arafat on Prospects for Accord Implementation *[Cologne TV]* 6
'Arafat Hopes Peace Process To Continue as Agreed *[Jericho Radio]* 7
'Arafat Describes Talks With Mubarak on Peace, Rabin *[Jericho VOP]* 7
'Abd-al-Rahim, 'Abbas Reiterate Confidence in Peres *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Al-Husayni Views Peace Process After Rabin *[Cairo International]* 8
'Urayqat on Post-Rabin Era, U.S. Congress, Election *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Al-Faluji Explains Trip to Amman With 'Arafat *[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH 6 Nov]* 10
Arab 'Rush' To Attend Rabin Funeral Deplored *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 6 Nov]* 11
Impact of Rabin Assassination Assessed *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 6 Nov]* 12
Israeli Tolerance of Radicals Blamed for Assassination *[AL-QUDS 6 Nov]* 13
Paper Fears Uncertainty After Rabin Assassination *[AL-NAHAR 6 Nov]* 13

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Ministry Refutes Paper's Election Campaign Claims *[Algiers TV]* 15
Boukrouh, Zeroual Representative, Present Messages *[Algiers TV]* 15

Egypt

Musa Views 'Arafat Discussions, Peres' Intentions *[MENA]* 15
Commentary Pins Hope on Peres, Labor Party *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Dailies View Rabin's Assassination, Peace Process *[MENA]* 17
Supporters Urged To Complete Peace Process *[MENA]* 17
Professors Club Denounces U.S. Embassy Move *[MENA]* 18
Industry Minister Meets South African Official *[MENA]* 18
    Botha Departs for Germany *[MENA]* 18
Draft Security Agreement With Yemen Sanctioned *[MENA]* 18
Mubarak Meeting With Pakistani Minister Reported *[Islamabad TV]* 18
PRC National Congress Chairman Arrives *[MENA]* 19
Sidqi Says Government Wants 'Fair' Election *[MENA]* 19

Brotherhood's al-Banna Arrested While Campaigning *[AL-WAFD 4 Nov]* 19
MB Lawyers Contest Law's Constitutionality *[MENA]* 19
    Presidential Decree Remains *[MENA]* 19
Rights Group Warns of 'Unprecedented' Violence *[AFP]* 20

Mauritania

46 Charged With Spying for 'Foreign Power' *[AFP]* 20

Sudan

Fighting Continues Against Ugandan-Backed Forces 21
    'General Mobilization' Declared *[Omdurman Radio]* 21
    Forces Not To 'Cede an Inch' *[Omdurman Radio]* 21
Agreement Made on Repatriation of Ethiopian Refugees *[Omdurman Radio]* 21

Tunisia

President Pardons 2 Jailed Opposition Leaders *[Paris International]* 21
Youth Radio Begins Daily Broadcasts *[Tunis Radio]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Opposition Leader Assails Ban on Gatherings *[Tehran International]* 23

Kuwait

Pelletreau Arrives, Conveys Clinton Invitation *[Kuwait Radio]* 23
Foreign Minister on Rabin Assassination, Peace Talks *[Kuwait Radio]* 23
Minister on Arab Reconciliation, Ties With Jordan *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Nov]* 23
Defense Minister on Iraq, Arms Purchases *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Nov]* 24
Naval Exercises With U.S., France, UK Begin *[KUNA]* 26

Oman

Bin-'Alawi on Peace Process, Solidarity Call *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Nov]* 26

Qatar

Iranian Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri Pays Visit 26
    Says U.S. 'Source of Insecurity' in Gulf *[Tehran Radio]* 26
    Speaks on Relations, Departs *[Tehran Radio]* 27

United Arab Emirates

Gathering Assails U.S. Congress Embassy Decision *[Jericho VOP]* 27

IRAQ

Husayn Kamil Reportedly Meets Opposition in Syria *[SAWT AL-MAR'AH 8 Nov]* 28
Oppositionist Salutes Husayn Kamil 'Salvation' Plan *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Nov]* 29
Opposition Figure on Reinstating Hashemite Kingdom *[AL-BILAD 8 Nov]* 29
Western 'Enemies' Said To Support Saddam *[Paris LE MONDE 7 Nov]* 30
Columnist Views Calls To End Country's Isolation *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 23 Oct]* 31
Chamber Head Notes Drop in Price of Foodstuffs *[AL-JUMHURIAYAH 28 Oct]* 34
Egyptian Trade Officials Hold Talks in Baghdad *[MENA]* 34

- Islamic Fighters Kill 25 Soldiers, Wound 30 *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 35
- 30,000 Badr Forces To Be Positioned Near Irbil *[SAWT AL-MAR'AH 8 Nov]* 35

ISRAEL

- Clinton To Support Israel 'Advance Toward Peace' *[MA'ARIV 8 Nov]* 36
- Peres Said Desiring Accord With Syria Before Elections *[MA'ARIV 7 Nov]* 36
- Peres Meets Britain's Major on Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
- Jordan's Crown Prince Vows Commitment to Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
- Gonzalez Reiterates EU's Support for Building Peace *[Madrid EL PAIS 7 Nov]* 37
- Baraq, Beilin Tasked With Defense, Foreign Issues *[Jerusalem TV]* 38
- Shamir Interviewed on Rabin Assassination *[Paris TV]* 39
- Ministers Reportedly Receive Death Threats *[AFP]* 40
- Labor Central Committee To Convene To Elect Peres *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
- Justice Ministry Steps Up War on 'Radical' Activity *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 40
- Justice Ministry Officials To Discuss 'Tougher Laws' *[YEDU'OT AHARONOT 7 Nov]* 40
- Right-Wing Activist Arrested for Inciting Murder *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
- Shin Bet Convinced Assassin Backed by Organization *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Nov]* 41
- Kakh, Kahana Hay Reportedly Trying To Kill Peres *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 8 Nov]* 42
- Kahana Hay Leaders Reject 'Persecution' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Nov]* 42
- Shin Bet Head Resigns; Officials Removed, Suspended *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
- Measures Taken Against Qiryat Arba', Kakh Inciters *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
- Qiryat Arba' Council Denounces Remarks by Resident *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
- EYAL's Raviv: Group To Change Name If Outlawed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Nov]* 44
- Settler Leaders Receive Death Threats From Radicals *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
- Activists Questioned About Assassination, Released *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 45
- German Paper Reports Rabin Ordered al-Shaqaqi Attack *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 6 Nov]* 45
  - Government Refuses To Comment *[Jerusalem TV]* 48
- Expert Views Rabin's 'Two Grave Errors' *[Rome IL MESSAGGERO 6 Nov]* 48

JORDAN

- Iraqi Envoy Warned Against Inciting 'Sabotage' *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 50
- Trade With Syria Suspended Over Trade Imbalance *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 8 Nov]* 50
- Saudi Minister To Visit Before 'End of Nov' *[AL-RA'Y 8 Nov]* 50
- Crown Prince Returns From Rabin's Funeral *[Amman Radio]* 50
- Columnist Criticizes Reactions to Rabin's Death *[AL-SABIL 13 Nov]* 51
- Paper Commends Peres' Intention To Pursue Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 8 Nov]* 51
- Writer Gloats Over Rabin's Assassination *[AL-MAJD 6 Nov]* 52
- Daily Urges Israel, West To Confront 'Extremism' *[AL-ASWAQ 7 Nov]* 53
- Airplane Receives Threat; No Bomb Found *[Amman Radio]* 53
  - Forced Landing in Vienna Confirmed *[Nicosia Radio]* 53

LEBANON

- Buwayz: Talks 'Frozen' Before Rabin's Death *[VOL]* 54
- Hizballah Radio on Rabin Death, Arab Reaction *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 54
- Delegation Leaves for EU Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 55
- Prime Minister Stresses Stability in Administration *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Nov]* 55

SYRIA

- Kurdish Leader Meets al-Asad, Leaves for Tehran *[Voice of the People]* 56
- Britain's Rifkind Arrives on Official Visit *[SANA]* 56
- Al-Shar' Receives Swedish Official Sten Andersson *[Damascus Radio]* 56

Papers Demand ‘Just,’ ‘Comprehensive’ Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 56
Commentary on Delay in Achieving Full Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 57
Press: Peace Process Can Take No Further Delay *[Damascus Radio]* 58
Corrective Movement Jubilee Celebrations Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 58

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Said Ready To ‘Step Down’ With Conditions *[AFP]* 60
  Radio on ‘Condition’ of Peace *[Kabul Radio]* 60
Minister Seeks Reassurance of Continuing UN Role *[Kabul Radio]* 61
Government Forces Kill 9 Taleban Members *[Kabul Radio]* 61
Taleban Fires Rockets at Kabul; One Said Killed *[Kabul Radio]* 62

India

Kashmiri Leader Calls For ‘Autonomy’ of State *[Delhi TV]* 62
Election Commission Discusses Elections in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Election Commission Members Arrive in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 63
  Visit Protested; Troops on Alert *[AFP]* 63
Communication Center of ‘Militants’ Said Destroyed *[Delhi Radio]* 64
Minister Criticizes U.S. Move on Arms to Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 64
Mukherjee Reiterates Offer To Talk With Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 64
Japanese Official Says Kashmir ‘Bilateral’ Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 64
Russia Agrees To Settle Claims on Past Exports *[Delhi Radio]* 64
Radio Views Rao’s Visit to West African Countries *[Delhi Radio]* 64

Iran

Khamene’i Predicts U.S. ‘Anti-Zionist Revolution’ *[Tehran TV]* 65
Velayati Comments on Nuclear Policy, Iraq *[Nicosia TV]* 65
‘Roundtable’ Discussion on Foreign Policy Reported *[RESALAT 29 Oct]* 67
Pakistan’s Bhutto Continues Official Visit 69
  Daily Reports on ‘Formal Talks’ *[THE NATION 7 Nov]* 69
  Bhutto: ‘Positive Results’ From Visit *[Tehran TV]* 71
  Bhutto Leaves After Visit *[IRNA]* 71
Nateq-Nuri Holds Talks With Irish Officials *[Tehran Radio]* 72
  Speaker Comments on 3-Nation Tour *[IRNA]* 72
President Rafsanjani Attends German Media Seminar *[Tehran Radio]* 72
  Answers Questions From German Media *[IRNA]* 74
  Comments on Israel, Germany *[Cologne Radio]* 75
Oil Official Says Reserves at 92 Billion Barrels *[Tehran Radio]* 76
Office of Student Activists Reportedly Attacked *[AFP]* 76
SALAM Addresses Position of Vice Regency *[24 Jul]* 76
  Response to SALAM View of Vice Regency *[RESALAT 29 Jul]* 78

Pakistan

UN Envoy Reaffirms Country’s Stand on Nuclear Issue *[Islamabad Radio]* 80
PRC’s Qiao Shi Meets Bhutto, Supports Kashmir Stand *[Islamabad Radio]* 80
  Qiao Shi Addresses Banquet With Gilani *[Islamabad Radio]* 80
  Meets Leghari, Reaffirms Kashmir Policy *[Islamabad TV]* 80
  Addresses Civic Reception in Lahore *[Islamabad Radio]* 81
  Commentary Welcomes Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 81

Leghari, French Army Chief Discuss Defense, Issues *[THE NEWS 3 Nov]* 82
Bhutto's Speech in Iranian Parliament Viewed *[Islamabad Radio]* 82

Sri Lanka

'Key' Tamil Politicians Demand Immediate Truce *[AFP]* 83
'Dismay' Expressed Over UN Official's Statement *[LANKAPUVATH]* 84
Relief Effort Said Begun; Foreign Aid Kept Out *[AFP]* 84
Daily Interviews LTTE Leaders *[OUTLOOK 8 Nov]* 85
Airport Reportedly Introduces Security Measures *[AFP]* 87
LTTE 'Guerrillas' Reportedly Blow Up Oil Tanker *[AFP]* 87
LTTE Said Preparing 'Last Stand' for Jaffna *[DAILY NEWS 5 Nov]* 88
Military Officials Said Expecting 'Heavy Fighting' *[DAILY NEWS 6 Nov]* 88
LTTE 'Guerrillas' Reportedly Ambush Army Patrol *[AFP]* 89

Inter-Arab Affairs

Editorial on 'Myth' of Violence as Arab Trait

MM0711162295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Nov 95 p 9

[Article by Basim al-Jisr: "Victims of the Ideology of Violence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the West, extremism and violence are considered Arab traits and democracy an Israeli feature, but....

Those three bullets fired at the Israeli prime minister by the Israeli extremist, who — as he said after his arrest — did not regret the killing, did not hit the heart of the Arab-Israeli peace process as much as they delivered a blow to a myth which the Jews had managed to make public opinion believe in, namely that Israel is a democratic state while the Arabs, generally, are otherwise, that violence, extremism, and division are traits of Arab policy, and that peace is more of an Israeli than an Arab objective.

A French magazine recently published a special issue on hatred as a personal and social psychological phenomenon. Yitzhaq Rabin's assassin is a living example of hatred of the Arabs and peace, and even of the Israeli or Jew working for or preaching peace. That is because he was brought up hating Arabs and in fear of them and also because he is the victim of a political, racial, religious, and national extremist ideology putting the truth and rights entirely on the side of Israel and the Jews, and the threats and wrongs on the other side. This other side, in his view today, is Arab or Palestinian or Muslim. In the past, it was British, German, or Russian. Hatred, according to the study, is innate in an individual's memory cells. The political environment which nurtures him is today within every one's reach and easily exploited by all political adventurers who believe that the short cut to success in politics resides in violence and the physical elimination of opponents.

It would be difficult to convince the Palestinians and the Arabs to join the Western politicians and media people in eulogizing Yitzhaq Rabin, who all his life was one of Israel's hawks. However, his obstinacy during the last two years in confronting Israeli extremists, especially the settlers on the [West] Bank, reveals two facts: He, the soldier, was convinced that peace with the Arabs is the best guarantee of Israel's safety, and that the Zionist religious ideology is not a national base for Israel which would justify its presence in the region. When the Israeli prime minister declares — as he did last week — that the logic of religious Jewish extremists calling for the extension of Israel's borders, in accordance with the Torah, to the West Bank, is flawed and unacceptable, because according to the Torah the southern part of Israel belonged to the Philistines and not the Hebrews, it means that an important change has taken place in the political thinking of Israel's hawks.

The peace process in the region may stumble after Rabin's assassination. These may not be the last shots fired at it and at those involved in it. Many, like Rabin, have been killed because they changed their political convictions or because they chose a difficult path in politics, conflicting with extremist tendencies. The lesson to be gained from his assassination is that peace must be founded on justice and not on Israel's safety alone, and that Rabin's assassin and the perpetrator of the Oklahoma bombing are neither Arabs nor Muslims. That extremism and violence here generate extremism and violence there. And that the settlements and settlers, as well as the religious ideology which justifies and protects them, are the real stumbling blocks in the peace process.

Rabin Assassination Seen as 'Opportunity' for Labor

MM0611122095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 17

[Article by Mahir 'Uthman: "An Opportunity for the Labor Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has focused minds in the Middle East and abroad on the future of the peace process, to what extent it will be affected, and whether, in his absence, Shim'on Peres who, under Israeli law, automatically becomes acting prime minister, will be able to proceed with the peace process.

Peres has announced that the Labor government intends to continue the peace process, but first he has to be sure that he, not someone else, will be confirmed as prime minister, because President Ezer Weizman has a right to ask any politician to form the government if he decides that such a politician would be able to do so. At the moment, sources with knowledge of Israeli public opinion believe that Weizman will entrust that task to Peres.

It was noteworthy that Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the right- wing opposition bloc Likud, announced yesterday that his party had no objection to the continuation of the Labor government in power. Clearly, he did that for the tactical reason of absorbing the strong reactions against the right-wing hard-liners in Israel in the wake of Rabin's assassination by a right-wing extremist who, as all indications show, believed in building settlements, opposed peace, especially with the Palestinians, and opposed Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, all of which are views advocated by Likud and its supporters. The fact that the assassination occurred at the end of a mass public rally of peace supporters will only intensify public anger at the right-wing extremists and their symbols, including Netanyahu. Furthermore, the only political assassination of its kind in Israel's history will now be linked in the Israeli people's minds to the right wing and its ideology and, therefore, the election chances of the Labor Party will improve. In fact these chances have already improved, almost immediately.

Peres, therefore, might — and this is just a theory so far — bring forward the date of the general elections and hold these elections in the near future instead of waiting until November 1996.

Peres was not as popular as Rabin in Israel but both were partners in the peace process with the Arabs even though they had some tactical differences. Those who maintain that Rabin was closer to the senior commanders of the military establishment and therefore better able to implement resolutions related to withdrawal from the occupied territories seem to overlook the fact that Peres occupied the post of Defense Ministry director general for a long time and has close links with the military establishment.

Whereas Rabin, in his last days, appeared to favor postponement of the peace negotiations with Syria to next spring, until there is more progress on the Palestinian track, Peres, according to informed Israeli sources, was pushing for exploitation of the time between now and the Israeli elections next year to proceed in parallel and simultaneously on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks. So, while the majority of Israeli public opinion hold Likud and the right wing in general responsible for creating a provocative basis against the "traitor" Rabin, the Labor Party may have decided that it would be better to bring forward the election date because that would improve its chances of returning to power, perhaps with a larger majority in the Knesset, which would enable it to move forward more steadily to complete the peace process and make it more comprehensive.

All this is based on the assumption that there are no other surprises like that of Rabin's assassination.

Israel Urged To Move Against 'Extremists'

MM0611122795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 9

[Editorial: "Another Crime of Extremism; Israeli Authorities Must Move Swiftly To Destroy Dreams of Extremists, Whose Criminal Policy Has Claimed Another Life"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It will take some time before all the facts relating to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination become clear. But before all the details emerge, it seems that their meaning is clear: Some elements in Israeli society are prepared to do anything to halt the peace process, which was launched in 1991.

As is known, the backbone of the opposition to the peace process is represented in the Israeli settlers, whom the Yitzhaq Shamir government used as an "insurance policy" against the "land-for- peace" deal with the Palestinians.

What is known as "the Shamir plan" was based on annexing the occupied land to Israel and granting the Palestinian limited self- rule. If this plan had been presented to Israeli voters openly and without political concealment, it would probably have won no support from the majority. But the plan was explained only to the settlers and also to visiting delegations from U.S. Jewish communities.

As for the extremists, they were either armed directly by the Israeli authorities or allowed to carry firearms on the basis of a policy that the Israeli authorities turn a blind eye. So it was no surprise when the extremist settlers turned brutally against those who made them, that is the Israeli Government.

It is naive to expect members of armed gangs to behave like citizens who respect the law, as the reason for their existence is to reject the basic rules of natural human dealings. How can one encourage a person to carry weapons and steal others' land without this person being tempted to violate the state's laws? Seizure of land by the Jews in the occupied territories was termed mainly "a sacred duty" to achieve the promise mentioned in the Old Testament.

No wonder that those who are brought up in such a manner tend to apply the law the way they want.

That is exactly what happened in the occupied territories. Hundreds of Palestinians were slaughtered by the elements that shot Yitzhaq Rabin on Saturday. Many Israelis described as heroic the massacre committed by the mass murderer Baroukh Goldstein. And many voted for his sponsor, Meir Kahana. And there are in Israel politicians, said to be legitimate, whether in the Likud or the ruling coalition led by the Labor Party, who tried to appease the extremists and to exploit their ugly hostility toward Palestinians and human values.

Rabin's assassination is a cowardly crime which cannot be justified by any political or religious values. The important thing is for Israeli leaders, and indeed the Israeli public as a whole, to reject such crimes.

Like the extremists of other ideologies, Zionist extremists always tend to use murder as a political weapon as long as they believe that they can change the course of events; in other words, as long as they still have hope of achieving their aims. To thwart them, their dream of establishing a state within the state must be destroyed. The only move in this connection can be made by the government, parliament, and political organizations in Israel.

In order to tell the extremists that theirs is a lost cause, the best message would be to immediately initiate negotiations on the future of the illegal Jewish settlements. This issue must be settled completely in a manner acceptable to both sides. If the objective is to establish a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians, why the delay in addressing this issue? The extremists will interpret this delay as a signal to continue to work to undermine the current coalition government in the hope of returning the Likud to power; perhaps this party, as they wish, would be held to ransom by them.

League Discusses U.S. Decision on Jerusalem

NC0611143795 Cairo MENA in English 1335 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 6 (MENA)—Arab League permanent representatives held a meeting here today to discuss Arab future action in the face of the U.S. Congress vote on the transfer of the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, League spokesman Counselor Tal'at Kamil said.

A second meeting will be held in the next few days to resume discussions under the chairmanship of Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who is ill today, he added.

The option of holding a meeting for the Arab foreign ministers was addressed today and will be discussed again at the upcoming meeting, he said.

The option of a mini-Arab summit is also debatable, he added.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 31 Oct

NC0611193095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 31 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Islamic World Rejects Congress Decision
2. Congress Decision Threatens Peace Process
3. Arab Weakness Vis-a-Vis 'U.S. Aggression' Viewed
4. Writer Says Congress Decision Will Not Affect Peace Process

ISLAMIC WORLD REJECTS CONGRESS DECISION

On page 1, the lead story discusses a "Definite Islamic Rejection" of the U.S. Congress decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem. The front page headline affirms that "Jerusalem Is Arab in Spite of the U.S. Decision" and that "Moving the U.S. Embassy Is a Violation of International Law." The 80-word report that follows says that "the Islamic world, with its leaders, key figures, and people, has emphasized its categorical and definite rejection of the U.S. Congress decision...to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, since this would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital." The report adds that the Islamic world stressed that the decision "consolidates Israel's occupation and annexation of the holy city and conflicts with the peace process."

The subject is handled more extensively in a 4,000-word report by Tariq 'Abdallah, Jamal Salim, and Salah 'Abd-al-Mu'ti on pages 12 and 13. The report features comments by "political scientists, professors of international law, and men of religion" on the American decision. They all agree that the decision is "serious and in violation of all UN resolutions concerning Jerusalem."

Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent delegate to the Arab League, describes the decision as "a stab to the peace process and the Oslo agreement to which the United States was a witness." He warns that it might make the United States "lose its credibility."

Dr. Husam 'Isa, professor of political science at Cairo University, blames the decision on Arab states' "inaction" vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue. He says that the United States knows that the decision will pass without denunciation or resistance because "no Arab power is capable of facing up to the Americans or criticizing their decisions."

Ihsan Bakr, a writer in AL-AHRAM, says the decision is "tantamount to a stab to the heart of the Palestinian and Arab cause." He adds that the decision means that the United States "has given up its neutral position and its role as a sponsor of the peace process."

Islamic thinker Fahmi Huwaydi believes that the decision means that the Americans see no one in the region but Israel. He finds it "very serious" that Jerusalem has entered "the political auction" for the first time with that decision.

Describing the decision as "a blow to the peace process and an insult to the Arab and Muslim nation," Huwaydi says that the decision "destroys the city's historic and divine heritage by canceling the role of Muslims and Christians in it and turning it into an American settlement after 400,000 years of coexistence among the different religions."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Mu'ti Bayyumi, professor of religion at the Usul al- Din college, describes the decision as "a crime against human sentiments, which shows that the Congress is indifferent to the feelings of all Muslims." He calls on "Muslim rulers" to make America "realize the mistake its deputies have committed."

Dr. al-Bayyumi remarks that the "battle is one of challenge between the creed of Islam and the arrogant on Earth." He firmly believes, however, that "Jerusalem will return one day."

Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, professor of Islamic history at the Dar al- 'Ulum college, emphasizes that "Arabs and Muslims must unite and close the ranks to restore Jerusalem and its holy sites."

Dr. Ahmad Taha Rayyan, professor of jurisprudence at the faculty of shari'ah and law, blames Arabs and Muslims "whose disputes have distracted them from protecting their interests and sanctities." He stresses that Arabs and Muslims "should stop talking and turn their words into deeds to make others reckon with them."

Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Birri, chairman of the al-Azhar Scholars Front, hopes the conduct by the United States will "revive Muslim conscience" and sensitize it to "Zionist Israeli and American schemes." He believes that it is the "collective" responsibility of Muslims to resist these schemes.

Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Sami' Jad, deputy of al-Azhar's Usul al-Din college, urges "a united, resolute and firm stand against all the countries that back Israel in its aggression on Arab and Muslim rights." He remarks that "we want the peace of the strong, not that of weakness and humiliation."

Dr. Idwar Ghali al-Dhahabi, former chief of the State Lawsuits Commission, sees in the U.S. conduct as "a blatant defiance of the feelings of non-Jews." He believes that the decision will affect the peace process "negatively" and will affect U.S. credibility. He urges Muslims and Christians in the Arab world to close ranks and "prepare as necessary to protect and restore their sanctities."

Finally, Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Najm, professor of Hadith at al-Azhar University, affirms that "Israel has no historic right to Jerusalem." He sees this "foolish conduct" as a "defiance" of Muslim feelings and stresses the need for "united action."

CONGRESS DECISION THREATENS PEACE PROCESS

A 500-word editorial on page 3 regrets that the UN Security Council and the United Nations today stand "with their hands tied" vis-a-vis the American decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem, the decision that "rids the Mideast peace sponsor of its impartiality and objectivity and threatens the peace process."

The editorial points out that the way the decision was made and its timing "cast doubts on Israel's credibility in maintaining the peace process."

"While pressure is being put on some Arab parties to forge ahead with peace with Israel, we find the other side, Israel, stabbing in the back," the editorial says.

The editorial emphasizes that historic facts and people's destiny do not depend on a decision by a state or an individual, regardless of his power and might.

The editorial asks "when will Arabs wake up from a long sleep, unite their views, bury their differences, and end their disputes?"

ARAB WEAKNESS VIS-A-VIS 'U.S. AGGRESSION' VIEWED

A 600-word article by Basyuni al-Halwani on page 6 comments on the Congress decision, saying that events prove day after day that "America is not a friend of Arabs and Muslims. All it cares about in the Middle East is Israel."

The writer refers to an article in the NEW YORK TIMES that attacked Egypt and its economic policy. He finds in the article "a Jewish-American conspiracy and a new attempt to put pressure on Egypt during the Amman summit."

Going back to the Congress decision, al-Halwani says that Congress "defied Arab and Muslim feelings" when it decided to move the embassy, ignoring "a promise" the U.S. Administration made a few days ago to provide a "favorable climate for dialogue and negotiations on the future of this holy city."

The writer asks: "How long will Arab and Islamic states remain weak and humiliated vis-a-vis the American aggression?" Referring to a passenger plane deal Saudi Arabia signed with America recently, the writer wonders when Arab states will stop backing America financially.

"It seems that America and its Congress have become hostages to the Jews," he says, adding that "we are capable with our daring stances to restore to America its lost balance. But we do not do that, because we are accustomed to taking orders from America."

WRITER SAYS CONGRESS DECISION WILL NOT AFFECT PEACE PROCESS

A 500-word article by Majdi Salim in the "God Is Gracious" column, page 10, says that the U.S. decision "will not affect the status of the holy city at present." He believes that it is wrong to say that the decision will affect the Middle East peace process because, according to him, "the peace process will continue whether we like it or not with the will of the United States and according to Israel's wishes."

As for Jerusalem, it is deferred to the end, he says, adding that "whenever Israel wants to discuss Jerusalem, we will sit with it and affirm that Jerusalem is Arab and Islamic and that history confirms this."

When that time comes, Israel will say "the existing reality says so and so," the writer says, adding that Israel will try to "Judaize the city fully, drive its original inhabitants out, and empty the city of everything Arab."

He believes that moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem will persuade other states that circle in the American orbit to follow suit and subsequently recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

He remarks, however, that "the fait acompli they will try to force on us to forget Jerusalem will not stand a chance against the will of God, who warned the Jews that they will leave the al-Aqsa mosque and Jerusalem in humiliation."

"God willing, the American embassy they will start to build will become the headquarters of the American embassy in the Palestinian state," he concludes.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Renews Call For Restoring Arab Solidarity

NC0711170695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1400 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today opened a seminar on "Development and Reconstruction in Palestine" organized by the General Secretariat of the Arab League in cooperation with the Palestinian Cooperation Foundation. The seminar will continue for three days.

Addressing the seminar, 'Arafat renewed the call for restoring Arab solidarity, pointing out that it is high time to settle differences and forge ahead to cope with the next stage in a united Arab spirit that guides the Arab nation in the face of challenges.

'Arafat pointed out that the U.S. Congress would not have made its decision on Jerusalem and the PLO if Arab solidarity had been capable of standing fast in the confrontation.

The Palestinian president believes that the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin encourages extremist powers and racist streams. He pointed out that he offered condolences on behalf of the Palestinian people in recognition of Rabin's role in the peace of the brave.

'Arafat noted that donor states have not honored their financial commitments to the Palestinian Authority, pointing out that this obstructs the development process.

He added that Israel also obstructs the peace process through the closure of the territories, the expansion of settlements, the delay over withdrawal, and the changes it is introducing in Hebron and Jerusalem ahead of the final negotiations. He remarked that these practices obstruct the peace process' ability to achieve the major goals and put us in an awkward position that undermines the entire peace process.

'Arafat said the Congress' decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem and the subsequent decision on assistance to the Palestinian people harms U.S. credibility at a time when the peace process needs a more enhanced role by the peace sponsors, rising to the level of actual participation to guarantee progress in the peace process.

'Arafat noted that the U.S. President's criticism of the Congress decision is as good as saving the peace process. We greatly appreciate this stance, 'Arafat said.

He added that in spite of the harsh political conditions and the impediments Israel produces to shake the newborn Palestinian being, the Palestinian people, the Palestinian Authority, and the PLO have confidence in the ability, morals, faith, and steadfastness of the Palestinian people as well as the Arab brothers.

He emphasized that the Palestinian Authority will provide security and safety to investors within a free economy and an open and guaranteed investment. He added that investors will be furnished with skilled and trained labor and assisted with the necessary easy procedures.

The Palestinian president reiterated that the Palestinian Authority is serious about eliminating the obstacles hindering the peace process. He pointed out that this goal can only be achieved through Arab solidarity and involvement to guarantee success for the newborn Palestinian being.

He pointed out that the issue requires concentration on development and reconstruction, which need a set order of priorities, like securing water sources, health, educational, electricity, sanitary drainage services, and roads in Gaza and the West Bank. He added that this needs money, funding that meets the task of reconstructing the infrastructure.

'Arafat added that the issue also requires paying attention to development, reiterating that the Palestinian homeland's energies are open without limits for any Arab support or investment in any field.

'Arafat praised the role the Arab League is playing in support of the Palestinian cause and its constant efforts to urge donor states to honor their commitments. He reiterated that the Arab League is the Arabs' home and we should protect it. He added that it is the haven we seek in hard times and when differences emerge, because we are governed by common interests and our destiny in the new world order and the challenges it forces upon us.

'Arafat emphasized that securing and maintaining reconstruction efforts, plans, and programs is the most important front, since it depends on administrative guarantees and political stability that make reconstruction and development viable targets that can be reached and turned into reality.

He said it is a duty from which the Palestinian Authority will not deviate to provide the necessary reassurance to investors to guarantee the smooth running of investments and projects. He reiterated the unchanging Palestinian policy and peaceful drive that rely on a free and open economy and adopt democracy and freedom to operate as an approach to the goals.

The Palestinian president pointed out that the Palestinian policy will not hesitate in making every effort necessary to overcome the burden of red tape that obstructs the free and speedy flow of projects and investments in the market.

He said that modern Palestine is a Palestine of science and technology, capable of competing in the race for progress, and careful to protect man's rights, safety, and stability.

'Arafat added that the priorities of the Palestinian people are not limited to ending the occupation. They include development and reconstruction as soon as possible as well as providing job opportunities and facilitating the marketing, import, and export processes with major efforts by brothers and friends, he said.

'Arafat on Prospects for Accord Implementation

AU0811095395 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0700 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Report on interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Hans-Joachim Wiese in Gaza "several days before the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin" — recorded; 'Arafat speaks in English, with superimposed translation into German; transcribed from the English]

[FBIS Translated Text] The shock at the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is gradually abating to clear the view of the future of the Middle East peace process. After all the sorrow, it is gratifying to see that all parties involved have unanimously corroborated their determination not to return to the old enmity, but to continue to push for peace. They include the chief of the Palestinian Autonomy Authority, Yasir 'Arafat, who, while unable to take part in Rabin's funeral, was clearly shocked at the violent death of his negotiation partner.

Several days before the attack on Rabin, I had an opportunity for a brief interview with 'Arafat in Gaza. I asked him how he assessed the chances of the so-called Oslo II Agreement being implemented faster than the Oslo I Agreement, whose implementation was delayed for more than a year.

['Arafat] We are not speaking about the faster or slower implementation of the agreement. What is really important is the precise and honest implementation of what we have agreed upon. According to the timeframe, the agreement must be implemented by the end of this year.

[Wiese] However, Oslo II is a very complicated agreement. Possibly its most difficult component is the withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

['Arafat] It is not complicated. We both have more experience now in overcoming obstacles and coping with problems. We have gathered sufficient experience, and we are sure that with the experience that we gathered in the first phase of the Oslo Agreement, we will be able to master the problems that we face in the future.

[Wiese] What will there be at the end of the peace process? Will there be an independent Palestinian state?

['Arafat] Definitely. No doubt. Under the agreement, we will have to start discussing the final status of the occupied territories as soon as possible, no later than three years from now. Four main problems will have to be solved — Jerusalem, the Jewish settlements, refugees, and the borders.

[Wiese] Regarding Jerusalem, Mr. President, both nations — the Israelis and the Palestinians — are claiming Jerusalem as their capital.

['Arafat] Where there is a will, there is a way.

[Wiese] There obviously is a will. But is there a way?

['Arafat] There is undoubtedly. Why not? We can have something like Rome. Rome is the capital city of two states — the Vatican and Italy.

[Wiese] My final question. What contribution could Germany make to the success of the peace process?

['Arafat] A lot. We are asking our German friends, the German people, the political parties in Germany, and the German Government to help us. We need help in every respect, we need your technology, your ethics, your policy, your industry. We need all sorts of help from our friends in Germany.

'Arafat Hopes Peace Process To Continue as Agreed

JN0711163795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Report by Hanadi al-Imam in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has opened a seminar on reconstruction and development in Palestine. The seminar aims to give a strong impetus to project owners and Arab investors to build a Palestinian state whose infrastructure was destroyed under Israeli occupation.

After opening the seminar, President 'Arafat said he hopes the peace process will continue on the Palestinian track as was agreed. He said the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was a hideous crime which cannot be ignored.

He said that Israel should confront the extremist Israeli elements and those who support and encourage them. He hoped that Israel's Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres would take steps toward achieving peace on all Arab tracks.

President 'Arafat thanked U.S. President Bill Clinton for his position against the recent U.S. Congress decision on transferring the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and closing the PLO office in Washington. Clinton telephoned 'Arafat from his plane on his way back to the United States. He stressed that the United States supports the peace process with all its capabilities. In his speech, President 'Arafat said the recent U.S. Congress announcement means that the United States is abandoning the sponsorship of the peace process, and that the mediation role should be promoted to one of partnership to guarantee the continuation of this process.

Regarding the guarantees promised by Peres to continue the peace process, 'Arafat hoped that Peres would be able to complete the peace process and implement the agreement on the second phase in accordance with the timetable signed in Cairo and Washington.

'Arafat expected the seminar on reconstruction and development in Palestine to achieve progress in enhancing the economic process without which peace cannot be established.

Other speakers at the seminar included the Jordanian crown prince's special adviser, a representative of the Egyptian foreign minister, the head of the Cooperation Corporation, and a representative of the Arab League secretary general. They stressed their support for the Palestinian economy through reconstruction and development.

President 'Arafat pointed out that economic projects in the region cannot be accomplished without healing the Palestinian economic wounds. He said the donor states have only fulfilled a few of their commitments. He also noted Israel's obstruction of the peace process through closures and settlement expansion and through slowing down the withdrawal and creating demographic changes.

'Arafat added: We are not promising investors milk and honey, but we will provide security and safety to them within the framework of the laws on free economy and open, secured investment. He asserted that the experience of the newly-born Palestinian entity will only succeed through Arab solidarity and participation in all fields of industrial, agricultural, trade, and financial investment.

Concluding his speech, 'Arafat said that the U.S. Senate would not have made serious decisions against Jerusalem or against extending aid to the Palestinian National Authority had Arab solidarity been capable of confrontation and steadfastness.

'Arafat Describes Talks With Mubarak on Peace, Rabin

JN0711202695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has asserted that the peace of the brave will continue on the same path and in the same direction. After arriving at the Presidential Office in Gaza from the Egyptian capital, Cairo, today, he said that U.S. President Bill Clinton had informed him that he would continue his efforts to promote the peace process. President Clinton contacted President 'Arafat by telephone while on his way back to the United States after taking part in the funeral of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

President 'Arafat described his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo today as constructive and fruitful. He said that he and Mubarak discussed the overall peace process, as well as the assassination of former Israeli Prime Minister Rabin — an assassination which the president considered a crime.

The president added that he also took part in a Cairo seminar on reconstruction and development in Palestine held under the auspices of the Arab League. Palestinian and Arab economists attended the seminar. President 'Arafat addressed the participants, expressing hope that the measures will resume to implement the second stage of the Declaration of Principles by carrying out a redeployment and enabling the National Authorities to assume its powers and duties in the rest of the West Bank.

President Yasir 'Arafat visited Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at his home today. Talks centered on the U.S. Congress' decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also received President 'Arafat at the Cairo Airport before the latter's meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak.

'Abd-al-Rahim, 'Abbas Reiterate Confidence in Peres

JN0811081495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary of the Palestinian National Authority presidency, said that Palestinians are confident that Shim'on Peres will continue the peace process and that this process is an irreversible option for Israel.

For his part, Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member, said Peres is capable of leading the Israeli Government and unifying the Labor Party. He said it is not easy for Israel to turn its back to the agreements it signed to establish peace in the region.

Al-Husayni Views Peace Process After Rabin

NC0811084095 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the Palestinian Authority, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] How do you view Shim'on Peres' statement shortly after Yitzhaq Rabin's death?

[Al-Husayni] I believe his statement was necessary because it represented the only appropriate response to the perpetrators of the crime. Peres' statement is clear but what counts is implementation, not just words. We indeed expect that the statement will be implemented.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe there is a correlation between Peres' statement and the lifting of the security cordon imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the start of the Israeli army's redeployment in the West Bank?

[Al-Husayni] I believe the behavior and mentality has changed. No doubt the Israelis may ask who the real enemy of the peace process is. Perhaps the Israelis will realize that the dangers posed by the Israel extremists are the source of trouble, not the Palestinian people. Such an attitude may help speed up the implementation of the agreement and cancel these measures, which only harm the peace process.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe Peres will speed up implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in the second stage of the Declaration of Principles? Peres himself was negotiating with the Palestinians?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I believe he will at least implement this agreement so that the Israeli forces will withdraw and the Palestinian elections will be held on time, because, as I have already said, the goal of Rabin's assassins was to obstruct the political process.

[Al-Jundi] Do you not fear Peres making stipulations to satisfy the Israeli right wing?

[Al-Husayni] I believe this stage is not one of satisfying the Israeli right wing, which is now cornered. The violent and extremist members of the right wing must be weeded out. These members at one time pressured the Labor Party to adopt more lenient stances than necessary.

[Al-Jundi] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held talks with President Mubarak in Cairo yesterday after Mubarak attended Rabin's funeral. What is the significance of the Egyptian-Palestinian contacts at this stage?

[Al-Husayni] I believe these contacts are very important because we are entering a new stage—the post-Rabin stage. We must reassess the situation and exchange views. President Mubarak met Peres and he must have heard something. These impressions are very important. Current developments are very important and President Mubarak knows this. These meetings and coordination may produce a sound peace process to serve Palestinian and Arab interests.

[Al-Jundi] You mentioned the post-Rabin era. Does this imply that the Shim'on Peres era will not be an extension of Rabin's era?

[Al-Husayni] Generally speaking, I do not believe there will be a change, for the two were partners. But there is a difference in tactics between the two and, therefore, each has his own style of governing and implementation. We must consider this. The Israeli Government will undoubtedly undergo particular changes to be able to continue. Domestic alliances may change. All these things are new and we must treat them very carefully and seriously.

[Al-Jundi] Does this mean the Palestinians nowadays are on the lookout and are putting in place a strategy for dealing with the Israeli Government in its new form?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. Naturally we expect to see changes in the government, because Rabin's absence has left a vacancy that must be filled. Filling this place may vacate other positions, which must be filled by others. Thus the Palestinians must consider these changes so that we can deal with what we have, not what we had.

[Al-Jundi] What is the Palestinian stance regarding the media campaign against the Israeli right wing and Likud leader Netanyahu, considering that Netanyahu had a hand in the incitement against Rabin?

[Al-Husayni] I believe the right wing's role is obvious. It was not confined to incitement against Rabin; it also incited against the political process in general, the Israeli Government, the Palestinians, their institutions, and their presence on the ground.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe the coming Israeli elections have been decided in advance?

[Al-Husayni] If the elections are held now the Labor Party is guaranteed to win. But it is too early to say if they have been decided or not.

[Al-Jundi] Regarding the Israeli right wing's views on Jerusalem, could we say that there will be a freeze in the status of Jerusalem to allow the final status negotiations on Jerusalem to succeed?

[Al-Husayni] Let me say that the Israeli right wing is now in a state that does not permit it to continue its frenzied stances on various issues, including Jerusalem. Thus the prospects for a debate and a discussion of this issue look more promising. This augurs more rational negotiations.

[Al-Jundi] Do you intend to obtain assurances from Shim'on Peres on the future of the political process between Israel and the Palestinians?

[Al-Husayni] The Palestinians are now studying the situation and forecasting the future. But no final decision has been made. This is one of the issues that could be studied.

[Al-Jundi] There was much speculation about the absence of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat from Rabin's funeral.

[Al-Husayni] Actually this was an Israeli decision relating to security issues.

[Al-Jundi] Do you not think it reflected a particular stance?

[Al-Husayni] Let us treat it for the time being the way I said. More time is required for a careful study of this issue.

[Al-Jundi] Faysal al-Husayni, the Voice of the Arabs thanks you very much.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

'Urayqat on Post-Rabin Era, U.S. Congress, Election

JN0811095795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, by Fathi al-Barqawi; place not given; from the "A New Day" news feature — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Barqawi] With us on the line is Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government. Good morning.

['Urayqat] Good morning.

[Al-Barqawi] We would have very much like to talk about the elections but we have another topic this morning: the post-Rabin phase, particularly regarding us, the Palestinians.

['Urayqat] I think it is premature to make any judgments because the clouds resulting from the assassination are still on the horizon. Israeli society has not recovered from the shock. Let us wait until the clouds blow over. However, I would like to say that we have been warning about Israeli extremism for a long time. [passage omitted]

We have always told the Israelis: Look at the increasing racism, extremism, and terrorism in your society. Now a red line has been crossed inside Israeli society itself — the assassination of the Israeli prime minister. If the Israeli forces of terrorism and extremism have crossed such red lines in their own society, then imagine what these extremist forces might plan against the Palestinian people. This is the first lesson that must be learned. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] Do you think that statements by Shim'on Peres after the assassination are encouraging?

['Urayqat] We have all seen how the countries of the world realized the real threats to the peace process. All speeches by heads of states who came to the funeral emphasized the need to adhere to the peace process. This is a strong message to the Israeli society from the entire world. I would like to say that Peres' remarks were indeed in harmony with the requirements of the peace process. However, we need more than statements; what is required is tackling issues on the ground, an accurate and honest implementation of the agreements in accordance with the timetables which will lead to a full redeployment in the West Bank by the end of December with the exception of Hebron city which will be included in the redeployment process in March.

[Al-Barqawi] What about President Bill Clinton's telephone conversation with President 'Arafat while on his way back to Washington. Does it signify anything?

['Urayqat] I believe it does. The recent U.S. Congress stands have dealt a great harm to the peace process. They were a severe blow to this process. I think 'Arafat has been pursuing this issue with President Clinton. The U.S. Congress cannot define the fate of Jerusalem, which is defined by history, the Palestinian people, and religions, but not by the U.S. Congress which has been trying to tamper with the blood of the peoples of this region. I believe President Clinton's phone call had more than one meaning. We hope that the U.S. Government is committed to the peace process without any bias toward any domestic U.S. group. They may be viewing the question in terms of number of votes from the U.S. electorate but the issue here is connected with the fate of peoples, with the region as a whole.

[Al-Barqawi] Will 20 January continue to be a sacred date for the Palestinian legislative and presidential elections?

['Urayqat] As we have said, we are fully prepared for elections. The registration of voters will begin On 12 November. There will be house-to-house calls by 7,000 teachers. Our technical preparations are ready; locations for ballot boxes have been rented; computers have been prepared; training has been completed; election law provisions are being discussed daily. What is required now is to complete the redeployment in accordance with the timetable so that elections will be held on schedule.

[Al-Barqawi] Indications are that this will definitely take place.

['Urayqat] Let us say that we are working to ensure the implementation of the agreement honestly and accurately. Dates are subject to day-to-day, hour-to-hour developments.

Al-Faluji Explains Trip to Amman With 'Arafat

TA0711200895 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 3

[Article by 'Imad al-Faluji, editor in chief of the Hamas weekly AL-WATAN: "The Trip With the President — and the Opposition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] My trip on a private plane with President Yasir 'Arafat has triggered the provocation and disapproval of some and the accusation of others. As usual, some analysts have begun to discuss this issue and link it to the dialogue between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Palestinian Authority [PA] and an imminent historic reconciliation. Some of them have linked it to my personal relationship with the president, others to differences and currents within Hamas, and so on. The more important question, however, is: Is there a contradiction between a real, pragmatic, and logical opposition and the realization of what is happening on the ground through a comprehensive perception devoid of any exaggeration or delusion and by listening directly to the decisionmakers?

Does opposition mean sitting behind desks and waiting for what the local and foreign press and news agencies report and later drafting critical articles about what they wrote?

Is the opposition's role confined to this alone?

I believe that anyone who thinks so can be likened to someone who puts himself first, does not rectify matters, and is not aware of what is going on around him. He is a hostage to the media, which, as everyone knows, addresses itself to this or that side.

Therefore, a schooled and distinguished opposition should play a major role by practical participation in every move that concerns our cause. It should have a distinguished and direct presence at every meeting or conference so that it will have its private, reliable, and realistic sources. In particular, this applies to the opposition's press, which must be the eyes and ears of the opposition. It should free itself of all restrictions, get rid of the complex of fear and accusation, fulfill its pioneering role, and act without hesitation. This is a natural right which this press cannot renounce. Moreover, it must struggle by all means to prove this role in practice and reinforce it. In this way alone can the opposition's newspapers be a source for relaying rather than only receiving information.

Furthermore, the leaderships of the political opposition should struggle to make their voices heard by all official international quarters. They should explain the nature, justifications, and activities of this opposition not only through the newspapers but also through official meetings with all delegations that visit the self-rule area. The meaning of this right should be entrenched. All official delegations on all levels that visit the brother president should be obliged to include an official meeting with the leaders of the major Palestinian opposition on their agenda, just as they do when they visit Israel. They should not make do with visiting the head of the Palestinian National Authority alone, because this constitutes the humiliation of and contempt for the opposition forces, which represent numbers that cannot be easily ignored. These forces must not be dealt with as if they are terrorist forces who do not deserve to be heard, do not have anything to say to these delegations, or do not understand diplomatic and political language.

This failure to activate the opposition's role in the political game does not serve the Palestinian political future or the Palestinian democracy that everyone is demanding.

The opposition must not renounce this right and accept the continuation of this situation. Rather, it should liberate itself from the restrictions it has placed on itself and begin to address the world directly. The PA should consider this a natural right rather than rivalry or the erosion of its status. Consequently, it should support this demand realistically.

This is the natural meaning of my accompanying the president's delegation to Amman and attending some of the president's meetings with official delegations there.

This is a new activation and presence of the Palestinian opposition on all levels.

Arab 'Rush' To Attend Rabin Funeral Deplored

MM0611162095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Arabs and Rush to Funeral"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is difficult for us to understand the secret behind those official Arab exaggerations in paying tribute to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and competing to attend his funeral and condemn his assassination. The man did not achieve a lasting or comprehensive peace to deserve all that official Arab grief over his demise. Nor was his history full of humane stances toward the Palestinian people and the men of their intifadah. Nor was he merciful to the Arab peoples when he was a general waging wars against them, inflicting embarrassing and humiliating defeats on them and their leaderships. Besides, he was no de Gaulle, nor did he even reach the level of DeKlerk, leader of the South African whites.

Yitzhaq Rabin offered the Palestinian nothing but a weak self-rule "mined" with settlements. He offered Arabs nothing but insults and arrogance. His speech at the Amman economic summit, which he started by saying that he had just arrived from Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem, is the most distinctive example of what we are saying.

We might have been able to justify the actions of the Arab leaders who have announced their eagerness to attend his funeral or those who have condemned his assassination if the murderer had been Arab and if they were trying to dissociate themselves from the accusation of extremism and of supporting terrorism. But the murderer is an Israeli terrorist, hence it is nothing to do with them and they are not obliged to exaggerate their feelings toward their former enemy.

We agree that the assassination incident is a catastrophe, but it is a catastrophe for Israel only and the outcome of its policies which encouraged extremism, armed the extremists, overlooked all their crimes against Arabs, and treated them as people who are above the law as long as their victims are non-Jews.

As for those who are weeping over the peace process and fear that it might collapse as a result of Rabin's assassination, their weeping is unjustifiable and their concern is not supported by logical arguments. Because the peace process was not "rushed" in the first place and so cannot be halted, nor was it successful and so its failure or faltering cannot be feared. We are still awaiting the implementation of what was agreed in Cairo two years ago, even though we agree that Rabin's assassination will provide his successor with new excuses for procrastination and bargaining, appealing to the Arabs to understand his difficult position.

The assassination operation is of the highest level of terrorism. But it is Jewish terrorism, on which the Rabin government itself imposed a blackout for a long time. And so did all its allies in Washington, London, and Paris. Efforts were focused on Arab "terrorism", on the grounds that it is a source of danger to Israel, and all the evils threatening the Arab region, its stability, and its security.

When Yitzhaq Rabin chose to negotiate with the Arabs and Palestinians, he was prompted by his country's interests in the framework of a comprehensive strategy aimed at dominating the region through new and advanced imperial means, most notably the economy weapon. He succeeded in that to a large extent when he attended as an honored guest the two economic summits held on Arab territory. These two summits abolished the boycott and opened the doors wide to normalization, although Israel has not even conceded the presence of 400 Israeli settlers at the heart of Hebron, let alone Jerusalem and the legitimate Arab — Christian and Islamic — right to it.

We are surprised by this official Arab rush to participate in Rabin's funeral, as though the man is a pan-Arab hero who did a great deal for the region as a whole. We are more surprised at the fact that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan are going to holy Jerusalem, when they know that Israel has predetermined its future and that President Clinton, who will head the mourners, indirectly endorsed the bill to transfer his country's embassy to Jerusalem when he refused to use the right of "veto" against it.

If the Egyptian president is compelled to participate by virtue of his U.S. role in the region, and if the Jordanian monarch is looking for an opportunity to visit Israel after signing a peace treaty with it, what is Qatar's excuse for sending its information minister to represent it at the funeral, when it is not compelled to and nobody would criticize it for not going?

The Qatari Government's behavior inspires astonishment, and its rush to normalize with Israel is condemned and lacks any political or moral justification. If this behavior is designed to spite its neighbors, it is actually spiting itself and exposing its stability to dangers it can do without. Is it so difficult to find markets in the huge world for Qatari gas that the Qatari Government is compelled to sell it to Israel in a clear provocation to the feelings of Arabs and Muslims?

We agree to being courteous to the Israelis and to offering condolences to the Israelis over their bereavement, but only after they withdraw from our land, return to us our holy sites, release our detainees, halt their economic boycott of us, and stop using the U.S. Administration and its huge might against anything that is Arab and Islamic. As for this high-level participation in Rabin's funeral at the heart of occupied Jerusalem, it is — apart from being a recognition of the holy city as the eternal capital of the Hebrew state — humiliating hypocrisy that harms the Arab nation, its faith, and heritage, which is full of epics of manhood and pride.

Impact of Rabin Assassination Assessed

MM0611171695 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Violence Virus Infects Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The assassination of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin is a major turning point in Israeli politics and marks the breaking of many taboos in Jewish traditions, which helps to explain the state of shock in Israel following the disclosure of the assassin's identity and his extremist religious affiliations.

This is the first time that a Jewish extremist has carried out the assassination of a democratically elected Israeli official because of a divergence of views, which shows the depth of the chasm toward which Israeli society is now hurtling.

Israeli political circles and their associated media organs have a great responsibility this fall for focusing on Arab extremism as the cause of all evil and forgetting Israeli extremism, which caused so much harm and eliminated all opportunities for peaceful coexistence between the Arab and Israeli sides by its terrorist operations against innocent Arabs and its implementation of the provocative settlements policy, uninterrupted for the last 30 years.

It must be noted that all Israeli governments have always managed to pander to the extremists and assimilate their leaderships within their ranks in order to guarantee their votes in the Knesset. The Israeli press with its fierce criticism of the Oslo agreements gave them potent ammunition in their battles against Rabin's peace moves, and indirectly pushed them to undertake such criminal actions.

The Israeli Government committed a grave error when it armed the settlers and condoned their violations. It has now paid a high price for that mistake, in the person of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. To guarantee the safety of settlers and settlements, despite the fact that they are illegal, is the responsibility of the Israeli Government and not that of the settlers themselves. The disregard of this simple fact is what encouraged them to escalate their extremism, break the law, and become a state within a state.

Certainly, Rabin's assassination will have a negative impact on the peace process, because it gives new ammunition to the continuation of delays in the Israeli withdrawal from the villages and cities of the West Bank, in accordance with the Oslo 2 agreement, and to holding the legislative elections in the self-rule areas afterwards.

Perhaps one should not make hasty judgments on the ability of Shim'on Peres, foreign minister and deputy premier, to fill the void left by Rabin's death, and on his ability to continue with the peace process. It is certain however that his main shortcoming is in his lack of popularity with the Israeli Army and his inability to control his generals despite his previous experience as a defense minister and prime minister.

Peres' success in establishing good relations with the Palestinian leaderships and some other Arab leaderships does not mean that he is capable of achieving the same thing within Israel. Success within is more important, and this is the real challenge that the new leader of the Labor Party will face during the course of the remaining 10 months leading up to the next parliamentary elections.

Rabin's assassination has closed a page and opened another in Israel's short history, and has brought it inside the region through the widest gateway, revealing how badly infected it is by its viruses, starting with the virus of violence and ending with the viruses of division and extremism, with all their side effects.

Israeli Tolerance of Radicals Blamed for Assassination

TA0711172095 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 13

[Editorial: "The Only Option Is Continuation of the Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The assassination two nights ago of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has without doubt proved that the radical Jewish groups do not hesitate to use the most repulsive methods, including murder, terrorism, and assassination, to achieve their declared goal of destroying the peace process and torpedoing the efforts to create a new reality in which the Palestinian and Israeli people, as well as the people of the region, will enjoy peace and security instead of the cycle of wars and bloodshed.

It is, of course, in now way possible to separate the assassination itself from the climate created by the Israeli right wing and the radical Jewish groups who, since the beginning of the peace process, have used all kinds of methods, including physical and verbal terrorism, whether in the Palestinian territories or inside Israel, to escalate tension and place obstacles in the path of the peace process. This lit a danger signal a long time ago, warning that the attacks and practices of these groups constitute a real threat to the peace process.

If the assassination has refuted the claims that Israeli democracy is able to absorb political and ideological differences and that Israeli society is immune to the phenomenon of terrorism and violence — as was affirmed by a number of Israeli officials and Knesset members when they clearly stated that Israel after Rabin's assassination is not the same country it was before — then it is necessary to focus on the policy of tolerating and disregarding warning signals. Those signals were turned on by a series of attacks, campaigns of flagrant provocation, and various threats by the extremist groups. It has been proved that this policy only encourages those who pursue the goal of destroying the peace process by various methods and means.

On the other hand, the various reactions condemning the assassination clearly affirm once again that the overwhelming majority of the region's people and governments, as well as the international community, support the continuation of the peace process. They want to give a chance to those who wish to reinforce the peace process with a new mechanism that is different from that employed up to now, because any delay or procrastination will only serve those who are betting on the time factor, among other things.

In conclusion, if human societies without exception unanimously believe that political assassinations cannot substitute for finding fundamental solutions to problems and that they only increase tension and the domination of the logic of force and violence, then what happened in Israel should serve as an impetus to both the Palestinian and Israeli people — supported by all peace-loving forces — to adhere to the only possible option for extricating this region from the cycle of violence toward the horizons of peace, security, and stability. This is the option of a just and comprehensive peace, which will wipe out all those who still believe that the logic of violence, terrorism, and assassination constitutes the solution to the complex problem in our region.

Paper Fears Uncertainty After Rabin Assassination

TA0711155795 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Rabin and the Last Will"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We welcome Israel to the Middle East's club of insanity. Following the assassination of its prime minister, Israel is no longer the state that endeavors to resolve its problems through democratic dialogue. Israeli extremists silenced Yitzhaq Rabin just as Egyptian extremists silenced the late President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat. The Israeli people are shocked because an attack was carried out against the highest state official and symbol of executive power —

considering that the Israeli head of state does not enjoy political influence — for the first time since the inception of the Jewish state. The sad and lamentable thing about all this is that Rabin was assassinated moments after delivering his historic speech and defending his policy of peace with the Palestinians and the Arabs.

Malicious people silenced him in order to derail and stop the peace process. Rabin, the military man and war veteran who adopted the policy of breaking bones at the start of the intifadah, became convinced that the majority of the Israeli people want peace and are ready to take risks for its sake. Rabin was very sensitive to the voice of the Israeli street and believed that his decisions should be supported by the average citizen. This was the reason for his hesitation when adopting difficult decisions. He did not make do with the Knesset's opinion but always tried to read the voice of the masses. He believed that any crucial decision should enjoy an overwhelming popular consensus. [passage omitted]

If Israel is bidding farewell to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today, from now on it will not be the same because fundamental and strategic changes will occur in Israeli policy. If Israel has lost its prime minister, the Israeli right wing and all extremist groups in Israel suffered a fatal blow. They sowed seeds of hatred and resentment which, in turn, produced violence and fanaticism. By killing Rabin, they sought to change the course of events in the region and halt the peace process, which aims at crushing the heads of extremism and discord.

They seek to undermine peace and continue the cycles of conflict and wars, with the ensuing bloodshed and devastation. [passage omitted]

As Palestinians, our interest in this matter stems from our desire to end the conflict and reach solutions that will end the occupation and restore our freedom and independent decisionmaking. We fear that Rabin's death will be the beginning of the collapse of the peace efforts for which he paid with his life. It has been and it remains difficult to predict developments in our region. Today we are witnessing the beginning of real labor pains, and we do not know what this angry land will produce.

Algeria

Ministry Refutes Paper's Election Campaign Claims

LD0711221695 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities, Environment, and Administrative Reform has issued a statement saying that, in its edition of 7 November, the EL WATAN newspaper contained serious mistakes. Under a front-page headline, the paper claimed that a candidate for the presidential elections had been prevented from holding rallies in Mecheria and Ain Sefra, the statement said.

According to this paper, which has overstepped the bounds more than once since the beginning of the election campaign, the pretext given by this candidate lay in the fact that the governor of Bechar was not shouldering his responsibility.

In order to clarify the real facts, the Interior Ministry stresses that these claims are aimed at casting doubt upon the neutrality of the administration and sowing confusion in public opinion, and that these accusations against servants of the state who are carrying out the responsibilities with which they are charged — such as providing venues for the rallies chosen by the candidates and security coverage — are unacceptable. They have been made by a newspaper that appears to wish at any cost to give public opinion a misleading picture of the capabilities of state institutions and their neutrality at this stage of the election campaign.

Whatever the aims of such articles, and whatever the interests which are concealed behind them, it is clear that the aims which motivate them to resort to provocation cannot shake the commitment of the public authorities directly concerned with preparing for the presidential elections.

In the face of this unjustified and unacceptable persistence in this behavior, which bears the stamp of excesses, the Interior Ministry, which has denied itself any interference in the election campaign so that the great impartiality which currently characterizes the election campaign is not violated, reserves the right to resort to legal ways and means to protect state institutions and employees.

Boukrouh, Zeroual Representative, Present Messages

LD0511221495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1830 GMT on 5 November carries a new batch of election campaign broadcasts. A man called Bechir Adjaila speaks first, for eight minutes, about Said Sadi's view on the independence of the judicial system, state employees' pensions, teachers' incomes and standard of living, and the need to establish peace and stability in Algeria. Adjaila calls on Algerians to rally behind the security services and the army in pursuing terrorists and combating terrorism.

Next, Noureddine Boukrouh appears on screen for five minutes and appeals to those who are carrying arms against the nation and brothers to lay down their arms, as the reasons which have caused the crisis will be eliminated in the future. He says that the cancellation of the legislative elections is the reason behind the current crisis, and he has proposed the continuation of the elections process, but his proposal was not adopted by those in power. He tells those youths that, though they have targeted the powerful, they have inflicted damage on the poor, and that though they have targeted the authorities, they have caused damage to the state. He appeals to them to stop killing ordinary soldiers and gendarmes, because they are not responsible for the crisis and are members of Algerian society.

At 1843 GMT, Khalfah M'Barek, representing Zeroual, appears on screen for 17 minutes and attributes the crisis in Algeria to the effects of foreign media on Algerian youth, who have fallen under their influence, and spends the main bulk of his time talking about Zeroual's education program, including the teaching of the Amazight language and the development of academic research. He also stresses the importance of preserving and strengthening Algerian national identity and consolidating the national media.

Egypt

Musa Views 'Arafat Discussions, Peres' Intentions

NC0711164295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the talks held today between President Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat focused on the Middle East peace process in light of the absence of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin from the political arena.

The foreign minister said in a statement today that the two presidents agreed on the importance of maintaining the peace process and implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement according to the agreed upon timetable. They also agreed that the peace process is stronger than any challenge that may face it, even if this challenge is the assassination of the Israeli prime minister.

The foreign minister added that President Mubarak and 'Arafat reviewed Egypt's assessment of the current situation. The two leaders agreed to keep up their consultations in view of the current circumstances.

Musa highlighted the need for commitment to a timetable for implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to guarantee the continuation of the peace process and to affirm that the powers of peace are stronger than those of aggression, extremism, and evil, the powers that were embodied in the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin on Saturday [4 November] evening.

Musa expressed the hope that the peace process will continue unchanged and the same spirit will prevail. He reiterated that Egypt trusts that acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will work in the same direction, since he was the chairman of the Israeli delegation to negotiations with the Palestinians and is one of those committed to the peace process.

He added that Egypt hopes the peace process will continue. We trust Peres' intentions, ideas, and policy in this connection, Musa said.

Touching on the Syrian track, Musa said the issue was discussed in Israel yesterday between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton. He pointed out that President Clinton reiterated the U.S. determination to continue to foster the peace process and protect it from any challenges like that represented in Rabin's assassination.

The foreign minister replied to a question on the nature of the assassination and whether it was a settlement of political differences or targeted peace. He said that extremism seeks to deal a blow to the peace process and that the arousal of public sentiment against Rabin in Israel led to the assassination. The forces of extremism are very dangerous, particularly in the group to which the assassin belongs, Musa said.

Commentary Pins Hope on Peres, Labor Party

NC0711164195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Commentary by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab: "Peace After Rabin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Observers pose a set of questions following the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The most important question being raised in Israel and in Palestinian, Arab, and world circles is: What will the destiny of peace be after the killing of the Israeli prime minister? To answer this, we note that there is a wager, both inside and outside Israel, on Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and, of course, on the Labor Party. After all, Likud and the right wing, particularly the extremist right wing, are being accused of obstructing the peace process and of constantly working to devise extremist concepts and ideas that give rise to racist, extremist, and terrorist cadres and elements, like those who assassinated Rabin. Israeli interrogators have pointed out that Rabin's assassin and his brother are both members of the extremist Jewish Kahane organization. They also said that the two brothers cooperated in previous attempts to assassinate Yitzhaq Rabin.

Hence, there is a wager on reason and rational thinking and on understanding the importance, necessity, and inevitability of continuing the peace process. This is what the extremist right wing in Israel lacks, particularly since it includes men with racist, terrorist ideas whose fanaticism and malice have blinded them to the importance of peace to Israel and the Jewish people.

The reasonable Israeli right wing must realize these facts in the historic stage Israel is passing through in the wake of the assassination incident. The Israeli right wing must understand the real implications of peace and that its attempts to avoid blessing the peace process makes Israel vulnerable to many hardships, the least of which is the renewal of hostilities in the region. This is particularly true because there is an international determination to reach a final, comprehensive, just, and lasting peace to end a conflict that dragged on for more than half a century and had serious impact on the region and the world in general.

Realizing this importance and believing that peace is inevitable, Peres affirmed to a number of U.S. congressmen yesterday that achieving peace in the Middle East is more important to him than winning the elections to be held in a year's time. In the meantime, Peres told a U.S. television network that the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied areas in the West Bank will be resumed according to what had been agreed. He announced that withdrawal stopped yesterday only because of Rabin's funeral.

This means that despite the general sorrow and mourning, Peres and the Israeli Government have made this responsibility their preoccupation. They demonstrated a belief that shouldering political responsibility makes it incumbent to honor previous commitments. Therefore, we saw the Israeli authorities reopen the gates to the West Bank and the Israeli territories to the Palestinian laborers after closure in the wake of the assassination.

Peres has actually transferred his ideas and words into resolute and calculated deeds. He had the courage to announce during the funeral ceremony that this is not the end of the line. "We will continue along our course until we achieve peace. Last Saturday evening, we agreed, Rabin and I, that there is peace," he said. Peres reaffirmed in his eulogy that the entire world knows that the bullets that killed Rabin can never kill the concept of peace he adopted, because peace has become an existing and viable reality. We have to go on without stopping, he said, adding: Only then will peace be comprehensive. With these confident words, Peres affirmed before world leaders and before the Jewish people that he is committed to peace until peace becomes comprehensive.

Hence, the wager is on the continuation of the Labor Party under Peres' chairmanship. They, the party and Peres, are capable of leading Israeli public opinion until the peace process reaches its desired destination and thus serves the interests of Israel and brings peace to the regional people and the entire world.

This does not mean that the road to peace will be easy. To continue the march and reach the goals, wills should be united in Israel, the Arab region, and the Middle East. The peace sponsors must fight and stop all the evil, fanatic, and frenzied powers that reject peace and take a hostile position on it.

As President Mubarak said yesterday during Rabin's funeral, we have to prevent the evil hands of the enemies of peace from getting what they want through violence.

Dailies View Rabin's Assassination, Peace Process

NC0811111295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0615 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has stated that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was the victim of terrorism represented by a group of Jewish settlers who refuse to give up the West Bank territory and reject the land-for-peace principle. In an editorial today, the paper said that under peace, which is on everyone's lips, we must bear in mind the issue of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is on top of the basic and substantive issues, because it involves holy sanctities and legitimate rights.

AL-AKHBAR notes that the significant international participation at Rabin's funeral shows that the peace process is forging ahead because it is in the hearts of millions in the region and their wise leaders and that the peace process cannot be turned back.

AL-AKHBAR says the only proof Israel must offer to the world to show its good intentions toward peace is to give up all terrorist practices, stop building settlements, and remove the obstacles that have frozen the Syrian track, thus ensuring that peace prevails in the region. The paper calls on the Israeli leaders to reconsider their society, try to heal the rift, and deal firmly with the extremists.

AL-JUMHURIYAH states that peace was the principal attendant of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's eulogies and funeral. The goal of continuing the peace efforts and confronting extremism and terrorism was the common denominator in the eulogies world leaders delivered at the funeral. The paper notes that the world leaders' statements emphasized that they all realize the need to continue the peace effort, because a fair and comprehensive peace will fulfill the hopes of the regional peoples for development and prosperity and give the decisive response to the extremists who assassinated Rabin.

Supporters Urged To Complete Peace Process

NC0811101395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0610 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' has stated that the biggest challenge to peace supporters in the Arab and Israeli camps now is how to turn the crime of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin into a launchpad to boost the process of a comprehensive and fair peace in the region. In an article published in AL-AHRAM today, Nafi' stressed that a successful remedy for terrorism lies in standing up to it and translating peace into a reality as quickly as possible so that all the region's peoples may reap its fruit. He stressed that solidarity among the supporters of peace is now more urgent than ever.

Nafi' said President Mubarak's decision to go to Israel to take part in Rabin's funeral must be viewed within this context. He added that despite Egyptian reservations that the Israeli policy that prevented President Mubarak from visiting Israel in the past still exists, demonstrating and backing solidarity among the supporters of peace—both Arabs and Israelis—is now more important than any other consideration.

In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM said that the Arab attendance and the participation of President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn at Rabin's funeral, drawing the attention of political circles worldwide, has one important meaning: The Arabs are continuing the peace process and genuinely desire peace, even though Israel has not fulfilled all or most of the peace conditions. AL-AHRAM expresses the hope that this significant Arab attendance will affect the trends and psychology of the Israeli politicians and ordinary citizens. It hopes the Israelis will cling to the peace process in which Rabin, along with Shim'on Peres, who is the acting prime minister and who held the post of foreign minister, went a long way.

AL-AHRAM stresses that the region is witnessing drastic psychological, political, and economic change. The Israelis must realize that these changes chart new realities and, consequently, they must take bigger steps toward complete recognition of the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights. The paper calls on the Israeli leaders to step forward with confidence toward concluding a peace agreement with Syria and Lebanon based on returning the Syrian and Lebanese territories so that equal relations may be established between Israel and these two countries.

Professors Club Denounces U.S. Embassy Move

NC0711172495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1515 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—A statement issued today by the Cairo University Professors Club denounced the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, accusing the United States of full bias toward Israel and of ignoring Arab rights and Jerusalem's religious value for both Muslims and Christians.

The statement said that the U.S. decision means they have decided upon the final status of Jerusalem outside the framework of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, decided that the issue has been crossed out of the negotiations agenda, and ruled that the fait accompli must be accepted and condoned.

The statement said there is no use negotiating in these circumstances, reiterating that Jerusalem must return to the Arabs and that it should remain open to all religions under Arab Islamic sovereignty.

Industry Minister Meets South African Official

NC0711141695 Cairo MENA in English
1133 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian and South African officials met here today to probe prospects of bilateral cooperation in the industrial, technical, and mining spheres. The talks were chaired by Minister of Industry and Mineral Wealth Dr. Ibrahim Fawzi and South African Minister for Mining and Energy Affairs Pik Botha.

The two sides also discussed the exchange of know-how, the establishment of joint projects in the sphere of food and mineral industry, steel and iron industry and encouraging South African investments in Egypt, Fawzi said.

South Africa has great experience in prospecting mineral wealth and is one of the leading countries in this sphere, Fawzi added.

Botha praised Egypt's expertise in the sphere of industry and mineral wealth, ever since the Pharaohs, who adopted the most advanced techniques in prospecting mines. Following the talks, Egypt and South Africa signed a memorandum of understanding on the exchange of know how in the scientific and technical spheres.

Botha Departs for Germany

NC0811090195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0712 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Pik Botha, South African minister for mining and energy, and his accompanying delegation, left Cairo for Germany today after a five-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, Botha held talks with a number of ministers, including Petroleum Minister Hamdi al-Banbi, Industry Minister Ibrahim Fawzi, Minister of Electricity and Energy Mahir Abazah, on ways of strengthening bilateral relations in various spheres and the possibility of establishing joint projects. Minister Abazah said good-bye to Minister Botha on his departure.

Draft Security Agreement With Yemen Sanctioned

NC0811071595 Cairo MENA in English
2245 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 7—(MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has sanctioned a draft Egypt-Yemen security agreement that is to be signed at the meeting of the two countries' joint committee in Cairo, says tomorrow's AL-AHRAM, a Cairo daily, in a front page footnote quoting Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in an interview to be published Thursday.

The Yemeni president is further quoted to the effect of deporting all extremist elements out of keenness on maintaining Yemeni-Arab relations.

"We have succeeded in solving the border problem with Oman", says the Yemeni president, hoping that the same problem would be shortly put to an end with Saudi Arabia.

A huge project has been, according to President Salih, launched to turn Aden into a free zone.

Mubarak Meeting With Pakistani Minister Reported

BK0711142495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has emphasized the need for a negotiated settlement of Kashmir and Afghanistan issues. He said this while talking to the defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, who called on him in Cairo. Mr. Husni Mubarak said the world was facing a number of problems which needed to be solved urgently. Mr. Mirani told the president that Prime Minister Benazir

Bhutto was determined to seek a peaceful negotiated solution of the Kashmir problem on the basis of United Nations resolution.

The Egyptian president conferred the highest civil award (Wussan-al Jamhuriya), which means Order of Republic Class-one, in recognition of Mr. Mirani's services for improvement of bilateral relations between the two brotherly Muslim countries.

PRC National Congress Chairman Arrives

NC0811121595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Qiao Shi, the chairman of China's National People's Congress [NPC], arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a five-day visit to Egypt. Dr. Fathi Surur, who received the Chinese official at the airport, said the visit assumes great importance because it is the first visit to Egypt by the Chinese NPC chairman. He stressed that this visit will help boost bilateral relations in every sphere, noting that it emphasizes the deep friendship between the two peoples.

Qiao Shi expressed his happiness at visiting Egypt, saying the visit will enhance understanding, friendship, and amicable cooperation between the two peoples. He noted that he will hold important talks with President Husni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials on strengthening joint cooperation and coordination on issues of common concern.

Sidqi Says Government Wants 'Fair' Election

NC0811103595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that the government's role in the People's Assembly election is to ensure it is absolutely fair and to ensure the safety of all candidates and citizens. He stressed that the election process is not a governmental process, but is primarily a political and partisan process. In this regard he called on citizens to vote for the candidate they believe is closest to fulfilling their hopes and needs.

In an interview with the Good Morning Egypt program broadcast today, Dr. Sidqi said the government's main goal in the economic development plan is to increase the annual growth rate to 8.7 percent. He pointed out that the plan is now focusing on promoting government and private investment. He added that the private sector must help in the reconstruction and development process, in agriculture, industry, construction, and any other area of investment. He noted that the government is committed to providing the infrastructure and public utilities, such as roads, bridges, sanitary drainage, health, and education.

Brotherhood's al-Banna Arrested While Campaigning

NC0811095895 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Yusri Shabanah]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the second time in a week security agencies have arrested Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna, a [Muslim Brotherhood] candidate in the al-Darb al-Ahmar constituency. He and three people accompanying him were arrested while campaigning following the Friday prayers. The security agencies accused al-Banna of leading a march in violation of the Interior Ministry's instructions, which prohibit marches or outdoor rallies for election campaigning. Al-'Ashri [not further identified] noted that al-Banna was carrying leaflets inciting hatred against the ruling regime.

MB Lawyers Contest Law's Constitutionality

NC0711182595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—The State Council's Administrative Court decided at a hearing today to allow the defense panel in the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] case currently being tried before a military court to file a lawsuit with the Supreme Constitutional Court, contesting the constitutionality of an article in martial law no. 25 for the year 1966, which was amended in 1977. The article concerns the referral to military courts of some defendants who are being tried in civilian cases.

The court decided to defer the hearing to 28 November, the deadline for filing suit with the constitutional court.

The defense panel filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court, demanding the suspension of a decision that referred the defendants to the military judiciary. They contested the constitutionality of the text which permits the trial of defendants implicated in civilian cases before a military court.

Presidential Decree Remains

NC0711183895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Counselor Jamal al-Labban, chairman of the State Lawsuits Commission, has stated that the decision issued today by the State Council's Administrative Court, referring defendants contesting the case against the Muslim Brotherhood to the Constitutional Court, does not suspend the presidential decree referring the defendants to the military judiciary.

He explained that some time ago defendants in another case filed a lawsuit contesting the constitutionality of the same article of the law. The Constitutional Court turned down the case on 13 April 1976, stating that the text of the article did not violate the Constitution.

He added that an explanation of the same article was referred to the Supreme Constitutional Court on 30 January 1993 and that the court confirmed its constitutionality. The court explained in its ruling that the president of the State and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces may use constitutional powers to refer cases to the State Security Courts or the military judiciary or leave the matter to the civilian judiciary if this serves the interests of society, he said.

Counselor al-Labban added that the Constitutional Court explained that the president of the Republic may refer a specific crime or crimes to the military judiciary in light of the circumstances surrounding them and the seriousness attached to them, according to objective standards that seek to serve the public interest.

Rights Group Warns of 'Unprecedented' Violence

NC0811051195 Paris AFP in English
2057 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 7 (AFP)—The Egyptian Human Rights Organisation [EOHR] warned Wednesday [8 November] of an unprecedented surge in Islamic militant violence and the recent appearance of acts of mutilation on the victims.

The group said in a report there had been an "unprecedented increase in violent acts now taking place in the Upper Egypt governorates of Asyut, Qina and al-Minya."

There were 333 deaths in the three provinces between January and October this year compared to a total of 630 deaths in the previous four years, the report said.

In al-Minya, 250 kilometres (155 miles) south of Cairo, 259 people were killed since the start of the year — most by Moslem militants — almost as many as the 1994 toll of 279 for the entire country.

Outlawed armed fundamentalist groups are carrying out a campaign of violence to try to topple Egypt's secular government.

The EOHR report said: "Egyptian Copts (Christians) have been a target of deliberate killings by armed groups since this violent trend started in 1990."

Twenty-four Coptic Christians have died so far this year, compared to 16 for the whole of last year, it said.

The report dismissed as "totally untrue" the claim by Moslem militants that Coptic Christians collaborated with police.

Police are the main target of militant groups, making up 61 percent of the victims of armed militant groups, the EOHR said.

The rights watchdog also warned of a change in the practices of armed militant groups "with the appearance of mutilation of the bodies."

"It is striking that the armed violent groups have started, since August 1995, to mutilate the bodies of their victims to intimidate the people and prove their ability to revenge," it said.

The report named two peasants who it said were beheaded after being shot dead in August and September. One of the heads was placed in a plastic bucket and tied to a lamp post.

It said armed groups were responsible for 60 percent of the 963 killings committed in the confrontation between militants and security services in the past five years.

But it also pointed out that the trial before military courts of 81 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, which has rejected violence as a means to create an Islamic state, showed there was little scope for legitimate political activity.

"The referral of members of the Moslem Brotherhood which seeks power through democratic means to military courts is a prominent example of how the lack of peaceful access to an active political participation leads to the resort to violence," it said.

Mauritania

46 Charged With Spying for 'Foreign Power'

AB0811081295 Paris AFP in English
0049 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nouakchott, 7 Nov (AFP) — Forty-six Mauritanians were charged Tuesday [7 November] with spying for a foreign power and belonging to a secret organisation, following the reported smashing of an Iraqi spy ring, a justice official said.

A total of 18 other members of groups sympathetic to Baghdad's ruling Ba'ath Party were released during the day, and the future of ten more arrested in a swoop last month was still uncertain.

Defence Lawyer Brahim Ould Ebetti said the penalty for intelligence with a foreign power was up to 20 years in jail, but claimed the second charge was unknown under Mauritanian law. He also complained the detainees had been questioned about deeds which had been amnestied in 1991.

Iraq's ambassador to Nouakchott was expelled two weeks ago after Mauritanian authorities said they had discovered the spy ring. Baghdad denied organising any such ring.

Sudan

Fighting Continues Against Ugandan-Backed Forces

'General Mobilization' Declared

EA0711211695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Republic, staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, in a speech today declared general mobilization in the country. He called on all the sectors of the people and the youth immediately to head for the popular defense camps and to enlist in the Jihad battalion in order to protect the faith and the country and its territory.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir, who received allegiance from a huge gathering in the Ribi area of Hasahisah area, in al-Jazirah, south of Khartoum, today, stressed that Sudan would not be cowed by the conspiracies being hatched by states of international arrogance and which are imposing their will upon some neighboring client states to use them as tools to implement those conspiracies. [passage omitted]

Forces Not To 'Cede an Inch'

EA0711200495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The director of the moral guidance office and official spokesman of the Armed Forces, staff Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir Muhammad, has affirmed that the Armed Forces are courageously and heroically continuing to foil all the attempts being made by the aggressive forces, comprising Ugandan forces, others and rebel remnants.

His Excellency told our correspondent that the People's Armed Forces had inflicted heavy losses on the aggressors thereby lowering their morale and curbing their ambitions in the face of the steadfast Sudanese forces. His Excellency referred to the courage, high morale and strong determination of the People's Armed Forces in repulsing the aggression, which, he said, the next few days would confirm.

The official spokesman of the Armed Forces said that the forces of tyrannical aggression on Sudanese territory had been properly trained politically and militarily by all the parties hostile to the country's cultural course. He said these operations, which had been elaborately planned, were indicative of the participation of many parties in this criminal act. His Excellency said that the rebel movement was clearly in no state to conduct military operations due to the disintegration of its forces, which was indicative of the support being given it by Uganda.

His Excellency stressed that the Armed Forces, backed by the mujahidin, would never cede an inch of the dear homeland's territory.

Agreement Made on Repatriation of Ethiopian Refugees

EA0711214595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ethiopia, Sudan and the UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] have agreed to start repatriating Ethiopian refugees during the first week of December. They also agreed that Himora on the border between Sudan and Ethiopia should be the last point to be reached by the Sudan Government. From that point the Ethiopian Government will convey the refugees to their respective areas.

This [agreement] was arrived at during a meeting held today at the refugee commission [offices] by the technical committee formed to explore ways and means of repatriating the Ethiopian refugees. Representatives from Sudan, the UNHCR and Ethiopia attended the meeting to explore the basis for the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees and ways of conducting a media campaign in the camps and towns with a view to enlightening them about conditions in their country and the projects established in the areas they would be taken to.

Tunisia

President Pardons 2 Jailed Opposition Leaders

LD0411232195 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Tunisia, President Ben Ali has just granted pardons to two extreme left-wing opposition leaders serving prison sentences for belonging to an illegal party. They are Hamma Hammami and Mohamed Kilani of the Tunisian Workers Party.

Youth Radio Begins Daily Broadcasts

LD0711092595 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the interests of strengthening the youths' intellectual, cultural, and artistic spheres, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had authorized in his address on 20 March 1995 the creation of a radio station for the youth, which becomes an instrument for following up on their concerns and aspirations, and responding to their tastes.

This radio station has, with God's blessing, started transmitting its programs at 0500 GMT on the occasion of celebrating the eighth anniversary of change. [passage omitted]

The youth radio station will broadcast its programs on the FM wave three times a day from Monday to Saturday distributed over the morning period from 0500 GMT until 0800 GMT, the afternoon period from midday [1100 GMT] until 1400 GMT, and the evening period from 1700 GMT until midnight [2300 GMT].

As for Sunday, transmission will continue from 0500 GMT until midnight [2300 GMT]. Thus, the overall transmission period amounts to 90 hours every week. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Opposition Leader Assails Ban on Gatherings

NC0711195995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with opposition leader Shaykh 'Ali Salman by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Your Eminence Shaykh 'Ali Salman, why do you think the Bahraini Interior Ministry decided to ban gatherings in Bahraini cities and villages?

[Salman] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Regrettably, local newspapers yesterday reported laws banning peaceful gatherings that call for human rights and practically declaring a state of emergency in the country. This violates the Constitution, which says that laws must be issued by the legislative authority and ratified by the amir. So these laws are unconstitutional in form. They also violate the spirit of the Constitution, which grants the right to hold free gatherings as long as these gatherings do not disturb security and the crowd does not use force to express its views.

These steps came at a time when the people were expecting rational moves to solve serious matters and address basic issues. Dialogue on these issues is in the interest of both the government and the people. These steps show a desire to terrorize people and prevent them from presenting their demands. But the government is mistaken, because the people have long since overcome surrender to the language of terrorism and oppression. The people offered at least 14 martyrs, thousands of detainees, and dozens of wounded. They are ready to continue along this path until they attain their legitimate rights, whatever the cost.

We hope things will not reach the point they reached before the brother leaders at home took their initiative. We hope the government will return to its senses and that things in Bahrain will move in the right direction to solve the real problems. The language of oppression proved futile and the attempt to divide national unanimity and to portray things on a sectarian basis is not useful in solving the problem. If the basic problems are not honestly confronted through dialogue, any measure will perpetuate the crisis and widen the gap between the government and the people. This would break the ties between the people and the government and so gravely harm the country.

[Correspondent] Your Eminence Shaykh 'Ali Salman, how do you view your relations with the Bahraini Government in light of these developments?

[Salman] From the beginning of our movement we have left the door open for the government to reconsider its policies and to engage in calm dialogue. We hope the government will take advantage of this before things reach a critical point beyond anyone's control and before things move toward violence generated by the government's irrational measures.

[Correspondent] Thank you Shaykh 'Ali Salman.

[Salman] Thank you.

Kuwait

Pelletreau Arrives, Conveys Clinton Invitation

LD0411122095 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness, the emir of the state of Kuwait, received Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern Affairs and the accompanying delegation this morning.

Pelletreau conveyed to His Highness an official invitation to visit the United States from William Jefferson Clinton, president of the United States of America. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Rabin Assassination, Peace Talks

LD0811111395 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In reply to a question from a KUNA correspondent on the assassination of the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, stressed that Kuwait condemns terrorism in all its forms and rejects recourse to it whatever the motives.

Kuwaiti also hopes that the assassination will not affect the peace process in the Middle East.

Minister on Arab Reconciliation, Ties With Jordan

JN0711105195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Nov 95 pp 1, 28

[Report by Mustafa Ahmad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muscat—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah said that inter-Arab reconciliation, especially with regard to the normalization of relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is proceeding as required. He indicated that there are changes in Kuwait's attitudes, especially toward Jordan, and that the two countries are proceeding toward the restoration of their bilateral relations, God willing.

Shaykh Sabah commented on the initiative of Shaykh Zayid Bin- Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. He said: I will be very clear on this important and vital issue. We have full and great confidence in Shaykh Zayid. What he said proceeds from good intentions and indicates a genuine Arab character.

Shaykh Sabah said: The UAE president is aware of the current situation experienced by the Iraqi citizens, who are definitely not to blame. We hope that the situation will be amended, the Iraqi people's suffering eased, and the blockade lifted, whether the West likes it or not. We are saying this because the Iraqi people are definitely Arabs and Muslims.

Regarding Arab reconciliation and recent Arab efforts to support this trend, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said: As you know, Kuwait severed its relations with the opponent states [states which sided with Iraq] during the Gulf crisis and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Those states included Jordan. I would like to point out here that the term "opponent states" was invented by the press, not the Kuwaiti Government. Relations have been normalized with most of those states, including Tunisia and Algeria. There is currently work through the Arab League, which is the home of every Arab, to normalize these relations, especially through the tour of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid of a number of Arab and Gulf countries in particular to support those good efforts. We hope that normal relations will be restored among Arab countries soon.

Shaykh Sabah added: Arab reconciliation is our objective and that of every genuine Arab sincerely hoping for reconciliation. From Kuwait's point of view, this reconciliation should start with Iraq's full compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions, especially the release of Kuwaiti prisoners held in Iraq. It is known that Kuwait is the only state harmed by the Gulf crisis and that it is the victim of the Iraqi regime's practices. We hope that all UN Security Council resolutions will be honored. We believe that this is the start of Arab reconciliation. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Iraq, Arms Purchases

MM0811121995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Nov 95 p 7

[Interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah by Hamad al-Jasir in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jasir] Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al- 'Abdallah al-Sabah warned recently that Iraq has plans ready to attack Kuwait. Do you have any information about these plans?

[Al-Sabah] What his highness the heir apparent meant in his statement to the press is that, as long as the regime in Baghdad is in power, there will always be a threat to Kuwait's security. Because this regime continues to imagine that Kuwait is part of Iraq despite all the facts that refute this belief.

I believe that the Iraqi regime is facing internal problems, thus it is trying to create an external problem to divert attention from what is happening inside Iraq. So it mobilizes its forces, imagining that it is capable of attacking Kuwait. Thus we must be cautious and remain united against this regime, which is currently beefing up its forces. We are aware of the development occurring in its combat formation, and we are watching their movements from one place to another, helped by the bad conditions experienced by its forces and the desertion of numerous soldiers from their units and barracks.

[Al-Jasir] Are the Kuwaiti Armed Forces capable — on their own — of repulsing a limited Iraqi attack?

[Al-Sabah] Our plans after liberation stressed that we rely on our Armed Forces. We are working diligently to ensure that these forces are reinforced by all capabilities, whether with regard to purchasing advanced weapons or training personnel on the latest system in the world. We are also working to identify the points of weakness that existed before 2 August 1990 in order to rectify the defects and build an integrated force to confront any threat. I personally believe that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces are capable of repulsing any aggression committed by the (Iraqi) divisions present in southern Iraq.

[Al-Jasir] Has the Kuwaiti Army completed rebuilding plans? Do you believe there is a need to allocate additional sums other than the 3.5 billion dinars to purchase weapons?

[Al-Sabah] We have completed a substantial part of the rebuilding plan. But there is still a lot to do to complete the plan. With regard to the defense budget, what has been spent so far has met the Armed Forces' needs. And, God willing, what is left will meet the remaining needs of the Armed Forces.

[Al-Jasir] Do the agreements Kuwait concluded with the five permanent member states of the Security Council oblige these states to engage in military operations in Kuwait's favor? And do they have a time limit?

[Al-Sabah] Those agreements were concluded to safeguard the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait. Hence these states must participate in safeguarding the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait. I signed the agreement with China during my visit to Beijing last march. The duration of these agreements is 10 years, and they are renewable.

[Al-Jasir] The international press published information about Russian arms deals with Iraq. Has Kuwait made contacts with Moscow over this question?

[Al-Sabah] I have no knowledge of any arms deals concluded by the Russian Federation with Iraq.

[Al-Jasir] Western states talk of Iraq's success in rebuilding a substantial part of its conventional forces. What is Kuwait's assessment of the Iraqi military capability at present?

[Al-Sabah] We know that the Iraqi regime is rebuilding its defeated Army and brigades have been formed with all their equipment, and they are near Baghdad. Technically, it has many items of equipment which were repaired with the help of some other quarters. The main aim of these forces is to keep the regime in power.

[Al-Jasir] It has been reported that Kuwait is concluding deals with the United States, Britain, Russia, France, and China under a quota system corresponding to the role of each in the war to liberate Kuwait. What is your opinion?

[Al-Sabah] We conclude deals with the states that offer the best weapons that suit us and on the basis of the assessment of the specialist brothers in our Armed Forces. We do not look at a certain state, but, rather, at the weapons. If they are the best weapons available, we purchase them.

For example, when Kuwaiti Air Defense specialists ascertained that the Patriot system was the best system for Air Defense needs, we purchased it. When Air Force specialists in the Air Force ascertained that the F-18 was the best aircraft for Kuwait, we purchased it. The state has not denied the Defense Ministry or the Armed Forces anything. It has always met all needs.

[Al-Jasir] Kuwaiti parliamentary sources pointed to the existence of an $800-million deal with Russia. What weapons is Kuwait seeking to purchase from Moscow?

[Al-Sabah] I cannot confirm the figure you mentioned. However, I would point out that the ground forces are interested in some advanced Russian equipment like the "Smerch" rocket launchers and the armored personnel carrier "BMB-3," which is the latest. The ground forces believe that Kuwait needs these weapons.

[Al-Jasir] It is said that military cooperation steps among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states are not quick, and it is noted that there is no significant Gulf military presence in Kuwait, nor have significant Kuwaiti-Gulf maneuvers been conducted there. Why not?

[Al-Sabah] We, the GCC states, must rely on our own forces to confront any threat. There is now the Peninsula Shield Force, which we — God willing, and with the approval of brother defense ministers in the GCC states — will bolster. All the GCC states will contribute to that according to the capabilities of each state.

Let me talk about Kuwait. We are in the midst of rebuilding our Armed Forces, and we need time to complete this task, then we would contribute to the Peninsula Shield Force. However, we consider our Army — at any time — a support for all the GCC states. If we are asked to defend any territory in the GCC, we will be in the forefront of the defenders. With regard to the presence of Gulf military units in Kuwait, these forces went to Kuwait when they were asked to during the Iraqi deployments crisis in October 1994, and they took part in the war to liberate Kuwait. There was also Gulf participation in the exercises that took place in Kuwait, and they will take part in exercises to be conducted soon on Kuwaiti territory.

[Al-Jasir] There are parliamentary demands that the Army should be Kuwaitized at a time when those whose nationality still has not been determined [al-bidun] constitute a large proportion of the troops. How will this problem be solved?

[Al-Sabah] A study has been conducted in this connection, and a timetable has been drawn up to tackle the problem. We are proceeding with the implementation of this schedule, which has set a number of years at the end of which the problem would be solved completely and the Army would be Kuwaitized.

[Al-Jasir] It was announced two years ago that the law on the draft would be amended. Has that been done? And what changes are most needed?

[Al-Sabah] The draft is a fundamental element as regards the Army's strength. A few years after we began implementing the law on the draft, we discovered that there were obstacles. I believe that the time has come to change some clauses in this law and its articles. Among the main things introduced to strengthen the Army is to rely on conscripts when they are called for service and when they are needed. We discovered that the current law contained obstacles which prevented that from being done satisfactorily. This is why the change in the law on the draft focuses on how the conscripts are summoned and on how to tackle cases of failure to respond. And also in order to ensure that the conscripts stay and that there are enough barracks and units to absorb them.

Naval Exercises With U.S., France, UK Begin

LD0411174995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1610 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 4 Nov (KUNA) — The office of the Kuwaiti Army chief of general staff announced here today the start of joint tactical exercises involving a Kuwaiti naval force and American, British, and French frigates.

A statement released by the moral guidance and public relations directorate at the chief of staff office notes that the joint tactical exercise, codenamed "Eager Century 96," will end 8 November, and is held within the framework of the military cooperation agreements between Kuwait and each of the United States, Britain, and France. [passage omitted]

Oman

Bin-'Alawi on Peace Process, Solidarity Call

JN0711214295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
7 Nov 95 pp 1, 28

["Exclusive" report by Mustafa Ahmad in Muscat]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states have decided to reinforce and support the Middle East peace process despite the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He said that the GCC foreign ministers held consultations and exchanged views on the future of the peace process in the region.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR in Muscat, Bin-'Alawi added: We are confident that the peace process will continue and will not be affected by the Israeli incidents. We also hope that these incidents will urge all sides to work to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region instead of bloodshed.

Answering a question about Shaykh Zayid's recent call for lifting the blockade, ending the Iraqi people's suffering, and achieving Arab reconciliation, he said: The Sultanate of Oman welcomes United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al-Nuhayyan's call for achieving comprehensive Arab reconciliation, lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq, and ending the suffering of the Iraqi people. The Sultanate supports this call. We hope that Iraq will respond to it as much as possible through the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly regarding the Kuwaiti POW's issue, so that Iraq can return to the Arab fold as soon as possible.

The Omani minister pointed out: Shaykh Zayid's call for Arab solidarity is not the first. It is an extension of his previous calls for achieving solidarity. This is out of his genuine pan-Arab stands and concern for the unity of ranks.

He noted that the Iraqi people's tragedy is very serious, its dimensions are broad, and their effects will be carried over to the coming generations. He said: The Arab nation, including the Sultanate of Oman wants to help Iraq. However, Iraq should respond to Shaykh Zayid's initiative so as to avoid the continuation of the blockade, perhaps, for longer than the Iraqi people imagine. I believe that all Arabs want to lift the blockade clamped on the Iraqi people. The Iraqi Government should move in the right direction and cooperate to achieve this objective.

He said: It is our duty as an Arab nation to crystallize Shaykh Zayid's call. The Iraqi Government should invest this call and help us and the Iraqi people lift the blockade which has been imposed on them since 1990. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Iranian Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri Pays Visit

Says U.S. 'Source of Insecurity' in Gulf

NC0411103795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Majles, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Doha last night on a visit of Qatar. According to our special correspondent, thousands of Iranians living in Qatar gathered at the martyr Raja'i educational complex in Doha and welcomed him and his delegation.

[Begin correspondent recording] At these grand ceremonies, Nateq-Nuri expressed his appreciation of the warm and wonderful welcome by the Iranians living in Qatar. He also mentioned the 4 November celebrations and he said that the presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf region leads to tension and is a source of insecurity and added: We believe that all the Persian Gulf countries should resist the dangers that threaten the region through unity and by coordinating as members of one family.

He stressed that the responsibility for safeguarding the security of the Persian Gulf lies with all the members of this family and that the Islamic Republic of Iran warmly grasps the hands of friendship extended by all its neighboring countries in the Persian Gulf. [end recording]

Speaks on Relations, Departs

LD0411230695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who has been visiting Austria, Ireland, and Qatar at the head of a high-ranking economic-political delegation, left Qatar on Saturday night. He was seen off officially by the Qatari parliament speaker.

According to the Central News Unit, before his departure Nateq- Nuri took part in a news conference in Doha, which was attended by reporters from Qatar and foreign news agencies. With regards to his assessment of his trip to Qatar and his talks that country's officials he said: We achieved all our aims and positive decisions were made in our talks with high-ranking Qatari officials about economic and commercial cooperation; we hope that these will bear beneficial results for both countries.

The Majles speaker stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran's general principled policy is to have good relations with all the countries of the region, especially in the Persian Gulf. He added: With regard to regional issues, the two countries' viewpoints were discussed and Qatar can now convey the views of Iran to the other countries of the region. This can, in itself, be beneficial toward the expansion of Iran's ties with them.

In reply to a question from a Qatari news agency correspondent about the sanctions on Iraq, the head of Iran's legislative branch said: We do not believe in these sanctions, because the resulting pressure is felt by the Muslim Iraqi nation and we are not happy to see the Iraqi nation suffering from this pressure. He added: A cease-fire is currently in effect between Iran and Iraq, and it is natural that there should be talks about Iran [as heard], borders, and other issues.

In connection with the recent U.S. Congress decision to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem, Nateq-Nuri condemned it as an aggressive measure against the wronged Palestinian people and added: This decision is an indication of the United States clear support for a terrorist regime, such as Israel, and it shows that the U.S. Administration is deeply influenced by the Zionists.

In connection with the issue of the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf — about which a reporter from the BBC, the British Government news network [as heard], had asked a question, the head of the legislative branch said : Nothing new and no new incident has taken place in this regard, and Iran and the United Arab Emirates must resolve this issue with one another's assistance and through talks; it must not be dragged to other places or politicized.

Nateq-Nuri gave the following explanation in connection with Iran's activities in the field of atomic energy and the West's propaganda claiming that Iran is manufacturing nuclear weapons: We are fiercely opposed to weapons of mass destruction and we condemn them. The United States raises this issue from time to time in order to justify its presence in the Persian Gulf region in the opinion of the regional countries. He added: Iran has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and all our atomic energy installations are open to international supervisors, and they have repeatedly endorsed the fact that Iran is making peaceful use of atomic energy. Iran is seeking atomic energy and its peaceful use, but the Zionist regime, which makes this accusation against Iran, itself possesses such weapons and does not allow international supervisors to inspect them.

The Majles speaker returned to Tehran on Saturday night. In an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit correspondent, he described the result of his visit to Austria, Ireland, and Qatar as positive. You will be able to hear the full interview with Nateq- Nuri at the end of this bulletin.

United Arab Emirates

Gathering Assails U.S. Congress Embassy Decision

JN0311152995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A festival entitled "For You Jerusalem," which several Arab, Islamic, and Christian personalities attended, concluded in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

The participants issued a statement considering the U.S. Congress' decision on the relocation of the U.S. Embassy to the holy city a forgery of the facts of history and a flagrant disdain of UN resolutions. They also said the decision will encourage extremism.

The participants also stressed that Jerusalem is the key to war and peace in the region. They called on Israel to withdraw from occupied Jerusalem and respect the UN resolutions.

Husayn Kamil Reportedly Meets Opposition in Syria

JN0811112495 Amman SAWT AL-MAR'AH in Arabic 8 Nov 95 p 15

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] SAWT AL-MAR'AH learned from informed sources that General Husayn Kamil Hasan paid a secret visit to Damascus on 30 October. The visit was at the invitation of the alliance of Iraqi opposition forces in Damascus.

The sources said that Gen. Husayn Kamil met during the visit with a number of Iraqi opposition leaders, including Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; Salah 'Umar al-'Ali, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Grouping of National Accord; Salah al-Shaykhali, secretary of the Democratic National Grouping; Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former military intelligence chief; Bayan Jabr, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]; and representatives of the Ba'th Party in Syria.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with the most important matters concerning Iraqi politics and ways of avoiding a domestic bloody confrontation in case the attempt to change the regime on which the conferees agreed is carried out. In two separate meetings on 30 and 31 October, the conferees discussed ways of pooling the Iraqi opposition's resources to work together to bring about the required change and close the opposition ranks to expedite the downfall of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The conferees studied ways of contacting the Iraqi opposition inside Iraq and the role that must be played by the Iraqi tribes upon the announcement of the beginning of operations to topple the current Iraqi regime. They also discussed the role that can be played by the Badr forces and what is required to promote these forces' combat capabilities. The Badr forces are SAIRI'S military wing. The conferees also discussed requirements and preparations for the entry of the Badr forces into the Iraqi territory from the Kurdistan region and their deployment along the border of Iraqi Kurdistan region with the areas that are under the control of the Iraqi central authority.

This secret visit by Gen. Husayn Kamil and his meetings with the Iraqi opposition factions is an important turning point that will open the door for an actual national reconciliation. It is a major move by the Iraqi opposition reflecting their clear support for His Majesty King Husayn's call for reconciliation. This is a development that will again push the Iraqi issue to the forefront of events.

Those who met with Gen. Husayn Kamil emphasized absolute rejection of partition along sectarian lines and any foreign interference in Iraq's domestic affairs, stressing that this is a domestic issue that does not need any help from outside. They also stressed the Iraqi people's right to self-determination to choose the kind of life they wish to live.

The conferees pledged to maintain the country's unity and integrity. They stressed the need to avoid any settlement of scores and to prevent the occurrence of a civil war that could lead to shedding the blood of innocent civilians who have nothing to do with what is happening in the country. They also pledged to open a new and bright chapter in the history of Iraq.

The recommendations approved by the conferees reflect an unfamiliar and new trend, completely different from the previous ideas to break the current impasse experienced by the Iraqi people. They also reflect a future outlook that seeks reunion and rallying of resources to build a new Iraq that adopts democracy and freedom of expression.

The conferees stressed the need for a quiet change. They said they want no bloodbaths and reject reprisals. They emphasized the need for legislative moves to build democracy and constitutional institutions. They said the judiciary must be respected and the Iraqi economy rehabilitated.

The opposition factions agreed to prepare a plan for coordination among them. Coordination committees were set up during the meeting to reconcile views among the various factions. It was agreed to issue a new unified publication to all opposition factions and to establish a radio station covering entire Iraq. It was also agreed to set up a specialized media office to issue publications in which forces from inside and outside Iraq will take part to define the features of the required change.

It was also agreed to allocate a budget called the change budget to contribute toward the expeditious downfall of the current regime. They agreed to form new military divisions to join the Badr forces. The new divisions will be made up of Iraqis in exile.

On the sidelines of the meetings, the conferees decided to hold another meeting on 7 November. The venue of the meeting has not been specified.

Oppositionist Salutes Husayn Kamil 'Salvation' Plan

MM0711154895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Nov 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Beginnings of Support for the Call for a Council for 'the Salvation of Iraq'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — In the first reaction to what has been announced about the intention of General Husayn Kamil, son-in-law of the Iraqi president and former industry minister, to form a council for "the salvation of Iraq" soon, Salah 'Umar al-'Ali, an Iraqi oppositionist, has said that the plan "is a very important step toward ending the dictatorial regime in Iraq."

Al-'Ali, who comes from Tikrit, held ministerial posts in the Iraqi government formed following the July 1968 coup which brought the Iraqi Ba'th party to power. And he was member of the party's Regional Command. He also worked as Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations and a number of European countries before moving to the opposition in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Al-'Ali, who met recently in Amman with Husayn Kamil, who defected to Jordan, said that Gen. Kamil's plan "represents a new hope and an important opportunity for the Iraqi opposition to achieve the main aim for which it is struggling." He added that Husayn Kamil "will soon distribute a draft of his political program to all Iraqi opposition leaders to express their observations and enrich this program before announcing it."

Opposition Figure on Reinstating Hashemite Kingdom

JN0711081695 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 8 Nov 95 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Nabil al-Janabi, leader of the opposition Democratic National Party, by Bassam Badarin; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Badarin] Are contacts currently being held between you and the Royal Palace in Jordan? What is the objective of such contacts?

[Al-Janabi] Contacts have not practically ceased between us and Jordan. We view the Jordanian leadership as a leading Arab leadership which works for its nation in deeds and not in words. The Jordanian leadership also believes that rescuing the Iraqi people from their tragedy will necessarily pass through its gate.

These contacts aim to reach agreement on common denominators which can rescue our people from their ordeals. We believe that the Jordanian leadership shares this opinion.

[Badarin] Do you have specific approaches, or, let us say: Have you received specific promises from Jordan?

[Al-Janabi] We always receive good promises from Jordan. We support Jordan's constant calls to democratize Iraq and to create political pluralism inside Iraq. Allow us to frankly say that we, as Iraqi opposition, want to be geographically close to our homeland and people. In other words, we want to be in Amman close to the Jordanian border with our country.

[Badarin] What does this mean?

[Al-Janabi] I will not discuss this issue in detail. I can say, however, that the opposition's general congress has dissolved itself, and that the opposition forces have united for the phase of the change.

[Badarin] What were the most prominent steps you agreed upon?

[Al-Janabi] We first support reinstating a constitutional monarchy in Iraq within a constitutional framework, followed by a federation founded on legitimate and democratic bases between the returning constitutional monarchy and the Hashemite leadership of Jordan. In any case, we believe that the various phases of this process will not be accomplished without the Jordanian leadership, specifically without King Husayn.

[Badarin] Are you talking about annexing Iraq to Jordanian rule?

[Al-Janabi] This need not take place. The Iraqis, however, view King Husayn as the one who can save them from their tragedy. King Husayn should be the architect and the sponsor of reinstating constitutional monarchy in Iraq.

[Badarin] Does the Jordanian leadership agree with this approach?

[Al-Janabi] There are contacts at a very high level. Things are being carefully planned. However, the surprise is very close.

[Badarin] It is said that the U.S. Administration is circulating, for special purposes, that Iraq has nostalgia for the Hashemite rule.

[Al-Janabi] If the Americans change Saddam Husayn's regime, I, along with 18 million Iraqis, will be among the agents for them. King Husayn's outcry has prompted the Iraqi people to shoulder their responsibilities. We and the Iraqi people are preparing for the change.

[Badarin] Why do you not try to reach understanding with Saddam, who is making democratic changes?

[Al-Janabi] The Iraqis do not trust Saddam even if he creates a democratic paradise in this world.

[Badarin] So you support the return of al-Sharif 'Ali Bin-al- Husayn to Iraq.

[Al-Janabi] We respect al-Sharif 'Ali, but we differ with him on the fact that the Hashemite family should return to Iraq. We agree on one thing — namely, establishing a federated constitutional monarchy with Jordan. However, this process should be accomplished under King Husayn in his capacity as the legitimate heir of the Hashemite throne in Iraq, the latest Hashemite ruler, and the head of the Hashemite national Union in Iraq. We want a Hashemite person to rule Iraq; he need not be King Husayn. However, this process should take place through King Husayn.

Western 'Enemies' Said To Support Saddam

BR0711150495 Paris LE MONDE in French
7 Nov 95 p 5

[Report by Francoise Chipaux: "Embargo Makes Life Impossible for 20 Million Iraqis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad — Thousands of Iraqis are dying of malnutrition. Hundreds are being born with lifelong physical and mental handicaps due to their mothers' malnutrition. Some people steal and kill in order to eat. In the streets of Baghdad, dirty children and women, veiled to hide their shame, are begging. In Bassorah [as published], the country's second largest city, more than 1 million inhabitants have no drinking water. The same complaint is heard in every village: bread and medicine.

Hostages of a political situation out of their control, 20 million Iraqis are trying to survive with the feeling that their misery plays just as much into the hands of the regime as into the hands of the international community. However, since they cannot do anything against a regime which has long established terror as a form of government, they blame most of their agony on a Western world that does not really know what it wants.

"The United States is saying loud and clear that it will maintain the sanctions until Saddam Husayn leaves, but it does not want him to fall just yet," one discouraged teacher said. "Saddam Husayn survives through the support of his enemies, who prefer the status quo," one diplomat added. "Under these conditions, in so far as this is possible, who would take the risk to move against him?"

Five. years after the imposition of an embargo that deprives the Iraqi people of the minimum they need to live on, one may well wonder about the justification of a strategy which confuses politics and humanitarian issues. After all, as everyone knows, this tragedy has no foreseeable end and it is obvious that the sanctions are not affecting the regime.

Broken Society

On the contrary, by mobilizing every effort just to survive, the sanctions have dampened any stirrings of revolt. "I am too tired to complain at all," one young lawyer admitted. "This morning, I spent three hours waiting in line for a gas bottle, and then spent two hours crossing Baghdad in order to buy some vegetables at a cheaper price. The same thing will start all over again tomorrow in order to find some medicine or something else."

Even more serious for the future, the embargo has broken society, something which wars failed to do. "The middle class, which had a good level of education and which was liberal and Westernized to a certain extent, is dying out and the West will pay the price for that," explained one foreign observer, a longtime resident of the country. "Its disappearance will open the way for broad inroads to be made by all the fundamentalist movements, no matter who they are."

Already, the structure of society has changed to favor the nouveaux riches from the embargo: traders with ties to the regime; farmers who are treated carefully by the regime because it needs their harvests, which are paid for in local currency; and pillagers from Kuwait who always sell their booty for foreign currency. "A beggar or a taxi driver going to Amman earns more than me," said one teacher. His monthly salary is 9,000 dinars (16 French francs [Fr]), or the equivalent of the price of three chickens, is not even enough for him to pay for his transportation to the university, which is open just four days a week.

"Ten years ago," said a women from a family that used to be well off," we employed a man from Sudan who used to send Fr1,000 to his family every month. Today, my brother has left to teach in Libya for Fr1,250 per month." When Libya, which is expelling the Palestinians, recently decided to welcome the Iraqis, their was a non-stop line of people waiting outside the embassy for a week.

Emigration is the last hope of the Iraqi people, many of whom sell everything they own just to end up in Jordan under conditions which are often lamentable. Emigration is only open to the intellectual elite. Despite the ban on doctors and PhD's leaving the country, many manage to due to widespread corruption.

The Iraqis no longer recognize each other and the solidarity that prevailed a few years ago has disappeared.

"The people's mentalities have changed," said one nun. "Crime is everywhere and when someone is hungry he is capable of killing." "The animal has won out over human values and everyone is saying: Its either him or me," said one man with a wife and children.

There have been cases of suicides of families who are at the end of their tether, a very rare phenomenon in Arab society. One university professor shot and killed his wife and four children because, as one of his friends explained, "his dignity did not allow him to steal or to encourage his wife to prostitute herself." Another family man preferred to offer his surprised family one last good dinner that he had poisoned.

This tragedy will be hard to forget and, as one diplomat said, "at the end of the day the entire region will pay the price." The regime continues to reject UN Security Council resolution 986, authorizing it to sell a limited quantity of oil to provide for the needs of the population, among other things. How could the Iraqi people, punished as a group for a crime of which they are the main victims, easily forgive the horror which they are living through?

In recently appealing for the embargo to be lifted, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates, was perhaps aware that the future stability of the region depended on saving the Iraqi people.

Columnist Views Calls To End Country's Isolation

JN0711123095 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

["Viewpoint" column by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "After the Referendum, Ideas and Results: The Live Arab Conscience and the Fall of the Game To Isolate Iraq on the Arab Level"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is incorrect to say that the referendum marks a new beginning in Arab dealings with Iraq, for the simple reason that this beginning goes back to early 1994. For, as soon as the dust had settled after the 30-state aggression, which was the biggest and most dangerous and savage Middle East war in which certain Arab governments joined forces with the United States officially and publicly, several Arab wise men became convinced that regardless of its effects, results, and nature, the war must not go on indefinitely, building a high impenetrable wall between Arab states, but that efforts must be made to contain its effects, heal its wounds, and find ways and means to stop the state of general collapse in the Arab World.

This conviction was further reinforced by His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman, his highness the Emir of Qatar, and His Majesty King Hassan II, when they called for reconciliation with Iraq and tackling the effects of the war in the wake of two major events which took place in late 1993: The peace [sulh] with Israel, and Iraq's fulfillment of its basic obligations under the UN resolutions. The first event was represented by the signing of the "Gaza-Jericho First" agreement between the PLO and the Zionist entity, the Jordanian regime's readiness to sign a similar agreement and the subsequent signing of such an agreement in Wadi 'Arabah, the intensification of official Syrian-Israeli contacts in this context, and the increasing calls by the Zionist entity and certain Arab parties for normalizing relations with Israel and offering the price of peace, which is "de facto acceptance" of its invasion of Palestine in 1948, recognition of its existence, and the establishment of strategic economic and technological cooperation with it.

The most dangerous time bomb in the region has been planted by the great urgency to close the file of Israel's bloody wars and invasion of the Arab territories of Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon, which led to the death of hundreds of thousands of Arabs and left some territories in the Golan, Palestine, and southern Lebanon still occupied, and the predominance of the "the spirit of forgiveness" among some Arab governments in the name of attaining peace, showing concern for future generations, uprooting the sources of periodic wars, and achieving development and progress under just and comprehensive peace. It is at this point that these wise Arab rulers have observed, just as the two hundred million Arab citizens have also observed, that this "spirit of forgiveness" which has gripped certain Arab governments is not comprehensive, but selective.

Any honest and sensible person must have clearly observed that "forgiveness" toward Israel was accompanied by hostility toward Iraq and calls by certain Arab governments for tightening the blockade on Iraq and annihilating its people. This has given the impression that the reconciliation with Israel is only a prelude to the destruction of Iraq. This situation has raised several urgent questions such as: If there is to be forgiveness toward Israel, which occupied Palestine and turned four million Palestinians into refugees, destroyed Arab development and annihilated hundreds of thousands of Arabs, invaded the Golan, Sinai, and southern Lebanon, and is still occupying Jerusalem, the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza, and southern Lebanon; if there is to be forgiveness toward an entity which committed the crimes of invading and colonizing Arab territory, could any sensible person accept the continuation of

The main loophole in the logic of those who have entered into reconciliation with Israel and remained hostile toward Iraq is implicit in the previous question. The mere posing of this question dispels any chance of the peace agreement with Israel being accepted by the simple people, since they consider it a form of coercion and compulsion and the other face of the policy of seeking to destroy Iraq. They also believe that the peace process with Israel is not based on the Arab rights enshrined in the resolutions of all Arab summits since 1990, but on submitting to Israeli terms.

Thus, several Arab rulers have found themselves faced with both a problem of logic and real danger: These rulers are unable to convince the ordinary people and intellectuals about the logic of forgiving Israel and remaining hostile toward Iraq. They should have begun by forgiving Iraq. This is what we mean by the problem of logic. The rulers are also unable to prevent the public from reaching serious conclusions; mainly, that those who signed the peace agreements with the Zionist entity or normalized their relations with it and yet continued with the policy of instigation against Iraq do not enjoy any public mandate, despite the cool reaction of the masses toward the agreements. Due to the big and deep shock, their reaction has been quick and transient. But, it is bound to build up due to the terrorism of the dictatorships and lead to riots and disturbances, whose nature and results only God knows. And, this is what we mean by the real danger.

The correct and logical comparison drawn by the majority of our people in the Arab homeland; namely, between forgiving Israel and remaining tough with Iraq has created a rift between the rulers and the massses as well as the patriotic forces, which cannot accept policies in which slogans conflict with actions. Thus a realistic and logical trend has emerged among many of those who have entered into reconciliation and normalization with Israel. This trend is based on the idea that forgiveness must be general and comprehensive and that it should begining with the brother before the old enemy. This is our explanation of the main motive behind the new attitudes of the Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, Morocco, and others toward Iraq; attitudes which are positive, sensible, and far-sighted.

The other important development which has influenced certain Arab governments and made them demand the removal of the blockade on Iraq was Iraq's complete fulfillment of its basic obligations under the UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 687, the recognition of Kuwait and its borders, and the acceptance of Resolution 715 on the armament monitoring regime. This has made several Arab governments feel that the continued suffering of the Iraqi people is no longer justifiable. The announcement of these positive stands by the Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, Morocco, and the UAE should also be viewed in light of similar positive stands by the governments of Egypt and Syria after August 1995 developments [Husayn Kamil's defection] on certain sensitive issues.

The emergence of this positive Arab climate has frightened the United States. And, when we say that we are not exaggerating, but simply stating the established facts. The countries which expressed their sympathy with the Iraqi people and demanded the removal of the blockade were preceded by other Arab governments which voiced similar postitive stands such as Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, and the small and weak Arab Gulf states which depend on U.S. support. Therefore, the voice which is being heard in the Arab Gulf states calling for an end to the sufferings of the Iraqis is a very courageous one indeed, since it knows that the "umbrella," which protects nobody knows who, or to be more precise which has imposed itself by exploiting these small countries with weak military capabliities, is U.S. imperialism, which is spreading anti-Iraq policies and annihilating millions of Iraqis. Thus, the calls for the removal of the blockade conflict, albeit verbal, with U.S. policy. They show that the United States does not enjoy anyone's support, but dictates its stands by means of threat and force. This is why we have described those stands as courageous.

The stand taken by Oman, Qatar, and the UAE clearly indicates that Arab governments are under U.S. pressure. Had they been given the opportunity to express their opinion freely, they would have strongly said "yes to complete lifting of the blockade on Iraq, and yes to general reconciliation with Iraq." How is the United States suppressing any signs of what has begun to emerge since 1994? The August 1995 plot, which was hatched by U.S. central intelligence with certain Arab quarters which U.S. sources have disclosed, was aimed at staging a void theatrical. But the U.S. media had to turn it into a "reality" in order to convince the Arab and world public, and mainly mislead the Iraqis and involve some of their sons in certain foolish acts in order to destroy the chance of lifting the blockade and return the Iraqi people to square one despite all the sacrifices they have made to lift the blockade.

The aim was to create an Iraqi, Arab, and international climate which would help the United States increase the isolation of Iraq and deter whoever sympathizes with it and make them repent and return to the position of hostility toward Iraq through the lowly defection incident and the ensuing reports, speeches, claims, calls, and speculations! Indeed, the month of August was fraught with sensational events, which some people could not tell that they were mere theatricals. The sound of drums prevailed and many people forget that drums produce only empty sound. We saw someone change his character and logic, make a 360- degree turnabout, and shift the rifle from the right to the left shoulder! And, instead of saluting and bowing his head to President Saddam Husayn, as he did whenever he stood before him, and almost kissing his hand, he began saluting and bowing to others until his head almost touched the ground! The applause of the spectators resounded, because they never saw in their life actors with such ingenuity and artistry. How did the 20th Century manage to produce actors who can convince spectators of a situation and its contrast in the same play without being professionals?! Who can deny that we lack such professionals in the cinema and theater but that Arab politics is afflicted with them!

In August, the month of drums and balloons, heads turned round in circles, minds were confused, and the lady of evil, Mad Albright, beamed with joy thinking that Iraq had returned to full isolation and that Arab support had died out. War drums and balloons may mislead the actors and some spectators, but they cannot mislead a great people such as the Iraqis who are among the most politically conscious people in the world. The Iraqis know the truth about all the U.S. games, actors, and puppets everywhere. Since the first moments of 8 August 1995, the Iraqis knew what the outcome would be; namely, that the enemies of Iraq would fail once again.

We waited several weeks, and that was sufficient to convince public opinion of the truth; namely, that what was taking place was no more than a theatrical based on the drum beating, the release of balloons, and the appearance on stage of actors who sought to play the roles they dreamed of for a long time, to the extent that they sold everything for the sake of that single moment of appearing under the spotlight! Despite the failure of turning the theatrical into a reality, the United States went on exploiting the noise of the drums and the whizzing of balloons in order to terrorize states and ask them to stop demanding the removal of the blockade on Iraq.

It is most unfortunate that several very respectable major powers were taken in by this theatrical and some of their officials made statements indicating their submission to U.S. blackmail and pressure. On the contrary, officials in smaller countries showed more courage than their counterparts in some of the major powers!

What has all that to do with the referendum? The referendum was more like a long Iraqi pin which punctured the empty drums, stopped their nuisance, and enabled people to see that they were completely empty! The spontaneous public response, the massive participation in the referendum, and the election of President Saddam Husayn in the presence of 1,500 eyewitnesses from all parts of the world, buried the August threatrical for good. As for the actors, who were stunned to discover that the deceptive brain-washing game through drum beating and the release of balloons was no more than a fanciful sight for simple kids, they could not enter Iraq and control the rule in it, but were completely isolated, fully condemned, and clearly exposed before everyone on all levels.

The outcry by Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan has truly and faithfully expressed Arab conscience, which was intended to remain silent although it wants to speak up, because what it sees and understands is too big to remain silent on. Thus, he cried out calling on Arabs to lift the blockade on Iraq and restore relations with it without hesitation. And, despite the hissing of the venomous within the Kuwaiti circles which dared to attack the UAE ruler, Shaykh Zayid and his esteemed government reiterated their demand for lifting the blockade and achieving Arab reconciliation.

Contrary to the state of silence which followed the puncturing of U.S. drums and balloon, waves of high honorable voices followed this time supporting Shaykh Zayid's demand. Qatar reiterated its honest stand, Bahrain ended its hesitation and backed Shaykh Zayid, and under the effect of these quick calls, Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-majid came from his seclusion to support Shaykh Zayid!

Thus, everything is changing, or to be more precise beginning to change on the Arab level. The majority of the Gulf Cooperation Council states are demanding reconciliation with Iraq despite U.S. terrorism. Earlier, Egypt and Syria demanded an end to the interference in Iraq's affairs, and before that the countries of the Arab Maghreb and Yemen adopted a generally positive attitude. This overwhelming Arab majority, which is demanding an end to the blockade and to interference in Iraq's internal affairs, was not formed under U.S. complacence. On the contrary, it was formed in an atmosphere of U.S. hysterics and increasing hostility toward anyone approaching Iraq. Therefore, we cannot but expect further strengthening of these stands to the better.

Indeed, the referendum turned out to be a huge bulldozer which flattened and leveled out Iraq's road to a bright future. Today, we see the Arab countries getting prepared politically and psychologically for positive steps toward Iraq after the fall of the U.S. game, the isolation and collective condemnation of its foundlings, and the filling of all Iraqi cracks with concrete cement. Thus we have achieved the step we have sought for several years, which is to remove the landmines which the United States had planted between Iraq and its brothers and to make the road of dialogue between Iraq and its brothers passable and safe

The question which we must pose now is the one which I heard from more than one Arab guest: Will those people who attacked Iraq and cast doubt on the referendum dare hold real, free referendums on their seats as Saddam Husayn has done? Certainly not. These people will not dare do that, because they know that the one who will win in their countries will be the giant of yesterday, today, and tomorrow; namely, Saddam Husayn.

Greetings to the live Arab conscience of the gentlemen in Oman, Qatar, the UAE, and Bahrain which could not be suppressed by U.S. pressure and dictatorship on the Arab Gulf states.

Greetings to the rationality, wisdom, and logic which pervaded the stands of the overwhelming majority of Arab officials toward Iraq.

Finally, we pray to God to forgive those who hurt Iraq and its people and leader. For, they do not know what they are doing?

Chamber Head Notes Drop in Price of Foodstuffs

JN0311214695 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Bushra al-Hamdani]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—The price of foodstuffs, particularly basic commodities, has recorded a noticeable drop in local markets in the past week as a result of the political and economic stability that was strengthened by leader President Saddam Husayn's winning of the general referendum on 15 October.

Zuhayr 'Abd-al-Ghafur, president of the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce, said that President Saddam Husayn's great victory produced confidence in the local markets, which saw in this victory a sure guarantee.

The head of the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce said he expects Arab and foreign suppliers to start supplying our markets with the goods Iraq is permitted to import. He said the general referendum has thwarted all the false allegations promoted by the enemies about the domestic situation. He also said he hopes that the official quarters and the people working in the commercial field will take advantage of this break of the psychological barrier to strike commercial deals to achieve the smoothest flow of the basic commodities and to put an end to the artificial rise, which was seen recently, in the price of these commodities and in certain services.

He added: The Baghdad Chamber of Commerce is monitoring conditions in the local markets and any changes therein.

He urged the people working in the commercial field to exert further efforts to improve performance and to provide the people's food at reasonable prices.

He said leader President Saddam Husayn's noble decision to increase the ration of flour and vegetable oil is additional proof of the extent of our political leadership's eagerness to support the Iraqi family and to provide its needs for basic food commodities. This increase, he said, will help reduce demand on these two commodities in the local markets, and, hence, influence their prices for the benefit of consumers.

Egyptian Trade Officials Hold Talks in Baghdad

NC0711141595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian trade delegation led by 'Isam al-Khashshab, which is currently visiting Baghdad, held two meetings today, the first with 'Adnan al-Qudsi, head of the Iraqi Industries Union; and the second with Zuhayr 'Abd-al-Rahman Dawud, director general of the Iraqi General Institution For Grain Trade.

Al-Khashshab told MENA correspondent in Baghdad that the discussion during the first meeting had focused on bilateral cooperation in the field of food industries, in accordance with the applicable UN resolutions, which permitted Iraq to import food and medicine. The second meeting, he added, centered on the possibility of meeting Iraq's needs of grain, such as rice, in accordance with the formula to be agreed upon by the two sides. Al-Khashshab pointed out that the formula is still under study, hoping that agreements will be reached with Iraq to provide it with its needs of medicines and food to help ease the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the difficult conditions they are experiences from the embargo imposed on Iraq.

Al-Khashshab added that the members of the delegation will meet tomorrow, Wednesday [8 November], with Iraqi Industry Minister 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid Jasim as part of the delegation's current visit to Baghdad.

As is known, food and medicines are not subjected to the UN embargo imposed on Iraq. But Baghdad has a shortage in the foreign currency needed to import its needs of food and medicines because of the suspension of Iraq's oil export as a result of this embargo.

The Egyptian trade delegation is scheduled to leave Baghdad on Thursday back to Cairo after a week-long visit.

Islamic Fighters Kill 25 Soldiers, Wound 30

JN0711161295 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources from the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] have stated that Islamic resistance groups recently carried out a heroic operation against the regime's forces and mercenaries in al-Badriyah area in the marshes of al-'Amarah Governorate.

The sources added that the fighters pounded enemy positions with mortar before launching their offensive in which they used all types of medium and light weapons, destroying large parts of the Saddamist forces. The sources added that the enemy losses are as follows:

1. Two vehicles, one laden with military hardware, were destroyed.
2. The positions and command centers of the Saddamist forces were set on fire.
3. Twenty-five mercenaries, including two officers, were killed and 30 others were seriously wounded.
4. Many serviceable military hardware, weapons, and equipment were captured.

The SAIRI sources said that the Islamic fighters safely returned to base after successfully completing their mission.

30,000 Badr Forces To Be Positioned Near Irbil

JN0811111495 Amman SAWT AL-MAR'AH in Arabic 8 Nov 95 pp 14,15

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Well-informed sources in northern Iraq said preparations are under way to receive the 30,000-strong Badr Forces affiliated with Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. These forces are stationed in Iran and will be transferred to the northern areas under the control of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. They will be headquartered in the Khalid base, south of Irbil.

Military observers said the presence of Badr Forces in an area close to the Iraqi forces will pose a threat to the Iraqi Army in Karkuk and Irbil, and will weaken the army grip on a number of towns and villages such as Tuz Khurmatu, Sharqat, Diyala, Tikrit, al-Khalis, Shahraban, and Samarra', which continually witness riots against the central government in Baghdad, especially since these areas are controlled by the al-Jubur, al-Dulaym, and al-'Azzah tribes, who are known for their opposition to President Saddam Husayn.

Clinton To Support Israel 'Advance Toward Peace'

TA0811124095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Nov 95 p 20

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Bill Clinton hinted Monday night [6 November] to Likud leaders that the United States will back Israel even if the Likud comes to power and has to handle the peace policy.

This was disclosed by former Ambassador Zalman Shoval, who heads the Likud's Foreign Relations Department, upon leaving the meeting between the President and the Likud delegation. Also attending the meeting were Knesset Members Binyamin Netanyahu, Moshe Qatzav, Binyamin Begin, and Dan Meridor.

President Clinton's key sentence, which is what encouraged the Likud leaders, was: "The United States will help Israel to advance toward peace, but it will not tell Israel how to go about that."

Peres Said Desiring Accord With Syria Before Elections

TA0711123995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Nov 95 p 32

[Report by Ben Kaspit and 'Ada Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a private meeting with President Clinton yesterday, Acting Prime Minister Peres said Israel is willing to advance toward an arrangement with Syria, that he is not deterred by the upcoming elections, and that we must forget past controversies, regain our composure, and "talk business."

Secretary of State Christopher will apparently resume his shuttle mission between Damascus and Jerusalem later this month.

Syria will receive the first Israeli message as soon as today or tomorrow, during British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind's visit in Damascus. Rifkind, who participated in Rabin's funeral, yesterday held a meeting with Economic Planning Minister Yosi Beilin. In the meeting, Beilin said Israel is interested in an arrangement, adding that Prime Minister Peres will not hesitate to reach a peace agreement before the elections, disregarding what has happened. "There are no questions regarding Israel's willingness; the time has arrived to resume the negotiations. The ball now lies in the Syrian court," Beilin told Rifkind.

Beilin, who is very close to Prime Minister Peres, yesterday said he believes Peres is taking the Syrian issue very seriously and has no intentions of giving up the attempt to reach an arrangement. Christopher yesterday delivered an indirect message of condolence from Syria: He related that President al-Asad had told him that he deeply regrets and denounces Rabin's murder.

This message, together with the fact that over the last two days Syria has striven to tone down expressions of joy over Rabin's murder, contribute to the assessment that the shock over Rabin's murder has not bypassed Damascus. An Israeli political source said yesterday: "It is possible that Syria finally realizes the significance of the time factor and the fact that this opportunity will not recur."

Prime Minister Peres' associates yesterday said that Peres is optimistic about the chances of advancing on the Syrian track. They said that Peres has no apprehensions about this issue. "The public will in any case either approve or reject the agreement, so there is no problem here," one of the sources said. [passage omitted]

Peres Meets Britain's Major on Peace Process

TA0711123595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Peres is meeting with heads of states staying in Israel following the funeral, including British Prime Minister John Major. Shim'on Peres also spoke with Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress [WJC]. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports from the Prime Minister's Office.

[Begin recording] [Eshel] At the end of the meeting with British Prime Minister John Major, Peres and Major approached the reporters. Peres declared that everything we have undertaken will be implemented in both letter and spirit. He was asked whether he intends to complete this government's term.

[Peres, in English] For us, the main consideration is the peace process and not the term of the government. I said yesterday, and I shall repeat it, that for us to win peace is more important even than to win the elections.

[Eshel translates the above and continues] British Prime Minister John Major is optimistic, as he expressed it, about the continuation of the peace process, especially after the talk with Shim'on Peres.

[Major, in English] On the basis of my discussion this morning with Mr. Peres and my earlier discussion some months ago in Gaza with Chairman 'Arafat, I have no doubt that there is a great will on both sides to see to what extent this can still be carried forward, and I would hope, after the appalling events of the last few days that there might develop a momentum.

[Eshel translates the above and continues] Following the meeting with John Major, Shim'on Peres met with the Japanese foreign minister, and after a telephone conversation with the Irish prime minister, he received WJC President Edgar Bronfman. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 7 November carries a similar report on the Peres-Major meeting, which includes further remarks in English by the two leaders. Asked by a correspondent whether he is confident he can implement what Israel has undertaken in the peace process, Peres says: "I am confident that we have to do it, and we shall do it."

[Major, for his part, says that future momentum in the peace process is "a momentum that will accept that the prize ahead, if it can be achieved, is perhaps the greatest single prize that the Middle East will have seen for generations and generations. For that, I think, it is worth a hazard and worth a risk, and worth pressing on, and I have no doubt that is what will happen"]

Jordan's Crown Prince Vows Commitment to Peace

TA0711183695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] My first visit to Jerusalem is an emotional moment, and as King Husayn said yesterday, who would have thought it would be under such circumstances. These remarks were made by Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan during a meeting with President 'Ezer Weizman this afternoon. Minister Yosi Sarid rode with the crown prince in the Jordanian limousine brought from Amman. Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller was at the president's residence:

[Begin recording] [Feller] We should appreciate the deeds, perseverance, willingness, and courage of the Jordanian kingdom's position toward Israel, President Weizman said.

Prince Hasan stressed: I came to Jerusalem to offer condolences and to say that we, the Jordanians, are committed to the peace we began to build together with the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. No one could have imagined that my visit here would be under such circumstances.

[Hasan, in English] We are still in a state of shock. We are still stunned by the realities of this brutal assassination, but we are determined to continue, and I hope that this message can be conveyed loud and clear to everyone in Israel. We are determined to continue.

[Feller translates the above and continues] I hope that in addition to the cooperation between us, we will be able to build a model peace to be followed by others in the region, the prince said.

Prince Hasan alluded to his grandfather, King 'Abdallah, and said he hopes that people will learn the lessons of the assassination of 'Abdallah and of Yitzhaq Rabin — namely, that human peace between nations is the only solution.

[Hasan, in English] I watched on television this message. It is a message that is shared by many who were moved to tears yesterday, not least of all the human peace as reflected by the words of a young granddaughter who missed her grandfather on that tragic occasion. [end recording]

Gonzalez Reiterates EU's Support for Building Peace

BR0711151895 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 7 Nov 95 p 5

[Report by Ignacio Cembrero: "Gonzalez Promises Peres EU's Support for Building Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — Yitzhaq Rabin has died, and it is now necessary to make every effort to ensure that his peace plan continues, thanks to his successor, Shim'on Peres. Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez yesterday called on all the Near East leaders to continue to build peace, and, at the same time, expressed his full support to Peres, Israel's acting prime minister. Gonzalez was one of the five foreign leaders who spoke during Rabin's burial at the Mount Herzl cemetery.

Gonzalez spoke next to last, in his capacity as EU president, after King Husayn of Jordan, U.S. President Clinton, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus—Ghali, and Egyptian head of state Husni Mubarak, and before Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Gonzalez traveled to Jerusalem accompanied by his wife, Carmen Romero, and by the European Commission president, Luxembourg's Jacques Santer, but did not have time to reach a consensus on his speech, as tradition requires, with the other EU capitals. However, he showed himself confident that "what I have said represents all the Europeans' opinion." On their behalf, the Spanish prime minister emphasized in a solemn tone that "at such a sad moment for the government and people of Israel, the EU reiterates its permanent commitment to the policy of peace in the region and its vigorous rejection of the enemies of peace."

"It is time to join forces," he continued under a more summery than autumnal sun. "We appeal here and now to the generosity and forward-looking vision of everybody — regional leaders and citizens — to continue to build a future of peace and progress for the peoples of the region."

"We are also left with the conviction that the best tribute to his memory is to continue to work for peace," as Rabin did after having won wars against his opponents.

The Spanish prime minister, who was wearing the kipa (traditional Jewish headgear) as a mark of respect, added: "Our vigor and cooperation remain ready for my good friend Shim'on Peres, who has our staunch support in his intention to continue the work which he performed together with the prime minister."

Champion of Peace

Gonzalez concluded his speech by speaking a sentence in Hebrew: "Yekhi zikhro barukh," calling for the memory of the Israeli head of government alive. He himself undertook to do so in the course of his speech. He praised Rabin's perseverance "in turning swords in plowshares for ever." "It was the courageous commitment to peace of a man who knew war."

At a more personal level, he expressed his "emotion at having lost a man who was a friend for many years and whom I admired as a statesman, a patriot, and a champion of peace."

Shortly before, in the vestibule of his hotel, with his black ties newly donned, Gonzalez was rather enigmatic in talking about his relationship with Rabin. In New York, at the end of October, Gonzalez revealed: "He made me some confidences which impressed me considerably from a personal viewpoint," but he refused to give more details.

Baraq, Beilin Tasked With Defense, Foreign Issues

TA0711192195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Talk between anchor Hayim Yavin in the studio and party affairs correspondent Qeren Neubach at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has tasked Minister Yosi Beilin with the Foreign Ministry's current affairs and Minister Ehud Baraq with the current defense affairs. Our party affairs correspondent has learned, however, that the two portfolios have not been promised to these ministers after a new government is established. In the past few hours, Shim'on Peres has been holding closed marathon meetings at the Prime Minister's Office with ministers and with Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili. Our correspondent Qeren Neubach is there. Would you say, Qeren, that Peres is tiptoeing in order to avoid shaking up the system?

[Neubach] Yes, that is a very accurate description of the situation, Hayim. It is vital to stress that the allocation of powers to Beilin and Baraq does not signify an assignment of portfolios; rather, they were given the authority to deal with specific matters. We must remember that Shim'on Peres is now the prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister, and that is a lot. He is a hard-working man who works very long hours, but there is a limit to what even he can do. Therefore, he asked them to handle certain specific issues. This has nothing to do with appointments or the distribution of portfolios in Shim'on Peres' next government, because no one knows what it will look like. We must not forget that no personnel changes can be made in a caretaker government.

Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili, who has just emerged from a meeting with Shim'on Peres, is here with us. Did you get the impression that the party will seek to broaden the coalition?

[Zvili] First of all, I would like to say that we have decided not to conduct any coalition contacts during the seven days of mourning. After the seven days have passed, we will make every possible effort to co-opt additional parties on the basis of the government's guidelines and peace policy.

[Neubach] Does that mean, for instance, that if United Torah Jewry demands that Minister Shetrit be fired as a condition for joining the government, you will consider it? I know that Peres does not want to shake up the system right now.

[Zvili] You are right. The second decision is that we will preserve the internal unity of the Labor Party. There will be no more camps in Labor, and no one should feel jeopardized by his past affiliation with any particular camp.

[Neubach] Then, contrary to what some people have suggested, Peres is not about to oust ministers affiliated with the Rabin camp. They are getting organized because they fear such a thing.

[Zvili] First of all, I hope no one is organizing. Labor's strength will henceforth lie in its unity. No one should fear for their job or their status because of past affiliations. We are looking to the future, and in the future, we will first and foremost have to bring all our stray sons back into the fold.

[Neubach] Including Ramon?

[Zvili] Including Ramon, including the Third Way members, including some party members who voted against the government for various reasons. We will go as far as to offer full amnesty to all these party members. Party unity is the central issue we are going to promote in the coming weeks.

[Neubach] Thank you very much.

[Later in the same newscast, Neubach reports: "The odds of the religious parties joining the coalition are slim, and as Shim'on Peres already has a majority of 63 Knesset members [MK's] after Qahalani and Zismann have assured him of their support, it is not at all certain that the coalition will be broadened." Neubach goes on to say that "it is still unclear which portfolio will be assigned to Hayim Ramon, and this is a problem because we have heard that Ramon will return to the party only if he receives a portfolio parallel to the one to be given to Baraq, for instance. Considering that Baraq is seen as the likely defense minister, that will be difficult."

[Further on in the newscast, anchor Yavin reports: "SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] is not demanding that Religious Affairs Minister Shetrit be ousted as a precondition for its joining the government, MK Arye Der'i announced tonight. He added: As SHAS has already announced, it will support the appointment of Shim'on Peres, and there have been no contacts on the party's joining a future coalition. MK Der'i said: We refuse to discuss coalition affairs until the days of mourning are over. In any event, if SHAS decides to join, MK Der'i saio, it will naturally receive the religious and interior portfolios, and posing conditions is therefore pointless."]

Shamir Interviewed on Rabin Assassination

LD0711235095 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 2125 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Interview with former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in Israel, by Guillaume Durand, in France on 7 November; from the "Le Magazine de l'Information" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Durand] Earlier today, I had the opportunity to interview one of the historic leaders of Israel, Yitzhaq Shamir, with whom I had this conversation following the death of Yitzhaq Rabin. Here is Yitzhaq Shamir.

We now go over to Mr. Shamir, who was prime minister of the State of Israel. Thank you for joining us, and thank you for your patience, after these days which have been so difficult for your country. Mr. Shamir, my first question will be a simple one: Who, in addition to the man who killed Yitzhaq Rabin, bears the political responsibility for this assassination?

[Shamir] Well, it was the man who confessed to killing Rabin. He is responsible for that act of terrorism. He explained to the judges that he was convinced it was the only way to change the Israeli Government's policies.

[Durand] But don't you have the feeling, Prime minister, that there is — as Mrs. Rabin said — some responsibility on the part of religious extremists and some responsibility on the part of Likud?

[Shamir] I do not think there is any responsibility to be borne by anyone in the political parties, especially Likud, because Likud has always explained to its audience and to public opinion that the only way to convince people to vote for Likud is the democratic path of elections. Likud has always been opposed to the use of violence.

[Durand] What can be done in your country now to ensure the safety of those whose democratic responsibility, is to ultimately lead the country toward peace?

[Shamir] Listen, security problems are still in the hands of the security services. I think they have the means to maintain the required level of security for the democratic undertaking of political confrontation. I do not see any...[pauses] I have absolutely no doubt that it is possible and that it is feasible.

[Durand] So this assassination, prime minister, will not stop the peace process, or will it finally vindicate the opponents of the peace process — or those who are pessimistic?

[Shamir] No, I do not think such assassinations can in any particular way change the results of elections. I think that such assassinations are [word indistinct], they occur from time to time. We have seen such things, for example, in the United States, and they have not not altered the democratic method, the democratic system of the United States. It will be the same here in Israel. The officials in charge of security have to take the necessary steps to maintain security. And the public — the entire public — is wholly opposed to violence.

[Durand] There was a great deal of emotion yesterday during Yitzhaq Rabin's funeral, and many people in your country were — how can I put this — astonished, they were alarmed, that a Jew could murder a Jew.

[Shamir] Well, of course, these emotions are entirely normal. Yesterday and the day before yesterday, we have seen that everyone in Israel — the entire population of Israel, the whole population of Israel — is fiercely opposed to violence, and everyone, even those who do not agree with the present government's policies, is united in opposing violence.

[Durand] Many thanks, prime minister, for granting us this interview.

Ministers Reportedly Receive Death Threats

NC0811091295 Paris AFP in English
0819 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Nov 8 (AFP) - Israeli ministers received death threats over the telephone on Wednesday [8 November] shortly before a meeting on security failures which allowed the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, police said.

The police did not identify the ministers.

The inner cabinet, in charge of security affairs, was set to announce a state commission of inquiry into the failure of coordination between police and intelligence services which allowed the murder of Rabin last Saturday.

Labor Central Committee To Convene To Elect Peres

TA0811060995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Labor Party Central Committee will convene on Monday [13 November] to elect Shim'on Peres as the party's candidate for prime minister. Meanwhile, a Qol Yisra'el reporter adds that Labor officials believe that chances are slim that any of the religious parties will join the government. Nevertheless, efforts will be made to broaden the coalition.

Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres held an hour-long meeting with President Weizman at his residence last night. The two discussed the new political reality following the death of Prime Minister Rabin. Peres conveyed some of the findings of the General Security Services' internal inquiry as to why the protective security broke down. They are also reported to have talked about how to address extremism and strengthen law and order. They traded impressions of the many meetings held with foreign dignitaries over the past two days.

President 'Ezer Weizman will begin consultations next week on the formation of a new government. The Labor Party will be the first group summoned.

Justice Ministry Steps Up War on 'Radical' Activity

TA0711164695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Justice Ministry is stepping up its war on radical right-wing activity. Following a consultation attended by the justice minister, the state attorney, and the attorney general, it has been decided to promote legislation that will allow faster prosecution of people suspected of calling for rebellion and inciting to murder. Senior Justice Ministry officials are also seeking legislation that would ban demonstrations in front of the private residences of public figures. Our correspondent Yiftah El'azar reports:

[Begin recording] [El'azar] Steps that appear self-evident today were hard to introduce before the assassination. This remark was made by Justice Minister David Liba'i this evening, at the end of consultations he held in his office with the attorney general, the state attorney, and senior members of his ministry. We must tackle this malady, Liba'i said. He reexamined the legal loopholes that currently make it difficult to press charges against demonstrators who chanted "Rabin Is a Murderer" or preached disobedience.

[Liba'i] We keep examining ways to make it clear that freedom of speech excludes wild public incitement calling for the death of certain people. We want to make it clear that praising and hailing crimes is absolutely banned and that anyone who does so will be punished, because this is incitement to additional crimes or murders.

[El'azar] Another new amendment discussed today was raised by senior Justice Ministry officials: They want to explicitly ban demonstrations near the private homes of public figures. The justice minister believes the amendments will enjoy the broad support of Knesset members, including the opposition.

In the meantime, before the amendments pass, the attorney general and the state attorney have ordered the police to act firmly against those inciting to murder in the media.

[Liba'i] A person who constitutes a real threat will be apprehended, indicted, and made to pay for his deeds. This will deter other people from thinking that they are above the law and that they can continue their slander without paying the appropriate price which, I believe, Israeli society today expects them to pay.

[El'azar] Justice Ministry officials vowed to give the police and the Shin Bet the legal means with which to fight these sick phenomena. [end recording]

Justice Ministry Officials To Discuss 'Tougher Laws'

TA0711125895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Nov 95 p 22

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi and Doron Me'iri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Justice Minister David Liba'i called a meeting with the Justice Ministry's top echelon this morning to examine the possibility of enacting tougher laws with regard to prosecution for inciting violence.

A senior legal official asserted yesterday that to date the Justice Ministry has abstained from amending the law for fear of impinging on the freedom of expression and assembly.

At the same time, Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir decided to enforce a tougher policy with regard to the prosecution of crimes involving incitement to violence.

The attorney general and State Attorney Dorit Beinisch asked the head of Israel Police's Investigations Department to launch an investigation into extreme right-wing elements who have praised the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Ben-Ya'ir ordered the investigation of the following people:

— Rabbis in settlements in Judaea and Samaria who drafted a blistering curse calling for Rabin's murder. Ben-Ya'ir ruled that an investigation must be launched on the grounds that there is prima facie evidence of solicitation to murder.

— Avigdor Askin, a resident of Qiryat Arba', who praised the murder of the prime minister on television.

— A teacher in Rosh Ha'ayin who expressed solidarity with the assassin.

— Settlers in Tapu'ah who recited a prayer of praise after Rabin's murder.

— Residents of Ari'el who cheered when they heard about the murder. The incident took place in the local community center and was witnessed by the actress Yona Elian.

Ben-Ya'ir ordered that the investigations be conducted in earnest and at once.

Labor's recently established "action committee for man-in-the-street support" yesterday asked the police minister, the attorney general, and the justice minister to order a criminal investigation to be launched into several settlers from Qiryat Arba' who in interviews on Israel's Channel 2 and CNN have expressed their support for Rabin's murder and said that "now it is Peres' turn."

Our correspondent Doron Me'iri adds: Police sources noted last night that "the police will now shift into high gear with regard to the handling of the extreme right wing's undermining Israel's democracy."

Right-Wing Activist Arrested for Inciting Murder

TA0811092795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The police have arrested David Balakhsan, a member of the Temple Mount Faithful Movement, in the settlement of Shani in the southern Hebron Hills. Balakhsan is suspected of inciting murder in the wake of his remarks in support of the prime minister's assassination. The secretariat of Shani decided to oust him from the settlement because of these remarks.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that Balakhsan had lived approximately six months in Shani, where he attended Bible lessons and engaged in activities in extreme organizations.

Shin Bet Convinced Assassin Backed by Organization

TA0711150395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 7 Nov 95 p 12

[Report by Buqi Na'e]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within the next few days, the Shin Bet and the police will arrest several of the heads of the outlawed Kahana Hay terrorist organization on suspicion of being party to the planning of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination. Murderer Yig'al 'Amir claims: "I was the only one who acted; perhaps only God was with me." The police and the Shin Bet, however, maintain that their investigation findings lead to a different conclusion.

They suspect that 'Amir, who was assisted by his brother Hagay, who has been arrested as well, had help from additional people in planning the deed. "There is a serious fear that we are dealing with a hostile organization that is guiding these acts. The brothers' denial is nothing but a planned denial that is false," stated Justice Dan Arbel, Tel Aviv District Court president. [passage omitted]

Chief Superintendent Moti Naftali, head of the Hayarqon Precinct investigation department, who filed the request for a 15-day extension of 'Amir's detention, listed suspicions of murder, attempted murder, possession of firearms, and membership in an outlawed organization. The request also includes a summary of the incident in which the prime minister was hit by two bullets and one of his bodyguards by one.

According to Naftali, the police searched the home of 'Amir's parents and seized another gun belonging to his brother, magazines, large quantities of ammunition, and drawings that indicate that the prime minister's assassination was preplanned. [passage omitted]

In his detention order, Justice Arbel wrote: "I am facing a man who is suspected of committing one of the worst crimes ever in Israel; from a public point of view, this is probably the most severe crime ever committed in this country. The suspect pleads guilty to the charges against him — namely, the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The suspect does not deny that he planned the act and carried it out with a clear mind, claiming he was ideologically motivated, if this can be called an ideology.

"At this stage, the head of the investigating team decided not to grant the suspect an interview with his attorney. Since the suspect does not want an attorney and refuses to meet with one, the entire matter is irrelevant.

"It would seem that there is no need to wait for the completion of the investigation and that an indictment can be filed right away because the suspect pleads guilty on all counts. Nevertheless, judging from the evidence before me, additional investigations are required to complete eye-witness accounts, obtain the forensic results, and, primarily, find any additional persons involved in the affair." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 7 November carries a similar report by Ya'aqov Galanti, Barukh Me'iri, and Tal Shahaf on page 27, adding: "Rabbi Yo'el Bin-Nun, a resident of 'Ofra and one of the settlement leaders, has said that he fears that there are hundreds of young Yig'al 'Amir's.

["Rabbi Bin-Nun, who attended Rabin's funeral, told MA'ARIV: 'The murderer is not insane. I would have been far less troubled had he been a madman. He is a bad seed that grew in the camp that is no longer the national camp but something beyond that. He was raised in a society that promotes absolute concepts the likes of which can be found in Tehran or within Hizballah. I am at odds with these people, and I have been receiving life threats on the telephone for years. I am not certain that we have seen the worst of it yet'."]

Kakh, Kahana Hay Reportedly Trying To Kill Peres

TA0811121595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Nov 95 p 6

[Report by Tzadoq Yehezqeli in New York]

[FBIS Translated Text] Supporters of Kakh and Kahana Hay have begun a campaign in New York aimed at inciting the murder of Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The first calls were heard Monday night [6 November] at the memorial for Me'ir Kahana, and leaflets inciting people against Peres have already been disseminated.

Mike Guzofsky, former head of Kahana Hay in the United States, said in New York last night: "We could have murdered Rabin long ago had we only wanted to." Guzofsky, who was in New York yesterday for the fifth anniversary of Kahana's murder, disclosed last night that his movement had discovered a long time ago what he called "unbelievable negligence" by the Shin Bet in safeguarding Rabin. "We got close to him quite easily. Had we really wanted to murder him, it would not have been a problem," he said.

Guzofsky denied any connection to the campaign of incitement against Peres and claimed that his members were not allowed to participate in it. "We are definitely against it, just as we did not want it to happen to Rabin," he said, adding that although "there is no connection between Kahana Hay and Yig'al 'Amir," he is concerned that the police interrogators will extract from 'Amir a confession about the link between him and the Kahana Hay movement. "They are capable of getting a false confession out of him by force. We have already received reports that they are linking us to it," Guzofsky said.

In the meantime, it has been learned that in the wake of Rabin's assassination, the FBI has expanded its surveillance and investigation of Kahana Hay and Kakh activities in New York. The two organizations are considered terrorist organizations under U.S. law.

Kahana Hay Leaders Reject 'Persecution'

TA0711180195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 7 Nov 95 p 15

[Article by Tzvi Singer and Hayim Broida]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We are used to this by now; whenever some politically motivated crime is perpetrated in Israel, they blame it on us. I have a bag packed at home in case the police come to take me. In any event, no one will break us." These remarks were made yesterday by Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana, leader of the Kahana Hay movement, after his movement was mentioned in the court hearing on the request to extend the remand in custody of Hagay 'Amir, brother of Yig'al 'Amir, Rabin's assassin.

"I do not know Hagay 'Amir, and I do not know of his being connected with our movement. Kahana Hay has many supporters; hence, the authorities tend to blame us for everything. I see how these things are built up in the media and how the media connects us to everything.

"I heard that Interior Minister Ehud Baraq said we should be 'crushed.' He will fail. He will be taking too big a risk. The persecution of our movement only strengthens us, and since Dr. Barukh Goldstein killed the Arabs in the Cave of the Patriarchs, support for us has only grown.

"As far as we are concerned, they may keep saying whatever they want about us. It does us only good. We will pursue the path in which we believe."

In retrospect, the police suspicion that Yig'al 'Amir acted on behalf of Kahana Hay should come as no surprise.

Even before the prime minister's assassination, the security forces and police knew that, although it is smaller than Kakh, Kahana Hay is more dangerous and murderous. Kahana Hay members perpetrated the attack in East Jerusalem's Butchers Market. Unlike the act by Barukh Goldstein, who was a Kakh member, theirs was the act of a group, not an individual.

The four youths convicted of the attack last year acted in the name of the Kahana Hay movement to avenge the death of Rabbi Me'ir Kahana. Like the murderer Yig'al 'Amir, the four meticulously planned their acts and carried them out in cold blood. The hand grenade they threw killed an East Jerusalem businessman and wounded seven local shoppers.

The hard core of Kahana Hay, headed by Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana, a small but tough ideological nucleus, lives in Kfar Tapuah in Samaria. This is where residents feasted and celebrated the night the prime minister was killed. Unlike Kakh members, most Kahana Hay members were born in the United States, are Vietnam veterans, and members of the Anti-Defamation League. Unlike many Israelis, they have no inhibitions.

After Central Command Commander Nehemya Tamari was killed in a helicopter crash, Kahana Hay issued a disgusting leaflet expressing joy. "The Lord has wreaked vengeance. Rejoice over the loss of evil men," the leaflet read, listing the crimes committed by Major General Tamari, "who symbolizes the political oppression of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Jews." The leaflet ends with the words: "It seems that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and its commanders will have to take into account that there is a God and that he may be telling them that the IDF must not be a political tool aimed against the people of Israel."

Among the movement members are Shmu'el Skat, also a member of the Zo Artzenu management; Eli'asaf Movshovitz, who served as deputy commander of the Cave of Patriarchs platoon during his military career; Lenny Goldberg, whose sister is married to the murderer 'Ami Popper; and David Axelrod, who was suspected of murdering two Arabs in the village of Luban al-Sharqiyah. Several weeks ago, this nucleus was reinforced by Mike Guzofsky (Yequti'el Ben-Ya'aqov), a Kahana Hay activist who spent the last few years in the United States as head of the movement's branch there.

"I am looking for ways to open an office and establish an independent military force in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza," Guzofsky said upon arriving in Israel. He does not rule out the possibility that the "alternative Jewish force" he intends to set up may include some movement members who were trained in Kahana Hay camps in the United States. "It may well be that what we need in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is another war of independence," he explained. "The only way to defend Jews in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza against the organized Palestinian force is to set up an independent army that will protect the settlements."

Kahana Hay does not make do with words. Several weeks ago, they filmed youths, sporting Kahana Hay shirts, conducting exercises with firearms on the shores of Lake Tiberias under the banner Camp Me'ir. A leaflet distributed in Samaria settlements promised that the campers would be "accompanied by a security officer from Samaria who will drill us in security, defense, and practical and basic training."

Kahana Hay activists sought to torpedo the peace accord with Jordan as well. They tried to register 150 people with foreign passports as a nucleus for a settlement in Jordan. They set up the Gil'ad Nucleus and marked a site not far from the biblical settlement of Naharayim, some 50 km from the Jordanian capital.

The Kahana Hay leader has not yet abandoned the old idea of the State of Judaea. He has often stated that if a decision is made to evacuate Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlements, several settlements will announce their independence.

[A report from New York by Tzadoq Yehezq'eli on page 16 of the same YEDI'OT AHARONOT supplement adds: "Although Kahana's supporters in the United States did not know Yig'al 'Amir, Guzofsky confirmed to YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night that he had met him, although he was not familiar with 'Amir's ideas. 'I recall that I apparently met him when I studied at the Yavne Yeshiva as a soldier, but I have not been in touch with him since,' he said.

["Guzofsky arrived in the United States on 3 November, 24 hours before Rabin was assassinated, and was supposed to return to Israel yesterday. He denied any connection between his movement in the United States and the murder, although it took place on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the murder of Rabbi Me'ir Kahana — coincidentally or not. "I am not sad that Rabin is dead," Guzofsky said. "We do not promote political assassinations. It is a shame he did not fall from power as a result of political circumstances, but Rabin brought this upon himself."

["None of the Kahana Hay members and the remains of what used to be the Kakh Movement (a few dozen people today) knew 'Amir, but that did not stop them from immediately turning him into a sacred hero, second only to Rabbi Kahana."]

Shin Bet Head Resigns; Officials Removed, Suspended

TA0811113595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the Shin Bet's security department has resigned, and his resignation has been accepted. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that his status is equal to that of a major general in the army. The head of the VIP security unit has been removed from his post. Both have been replaced by temporary appointments. Two other officials in the VIP security unit have been suspected.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 8 November adds that "the cabinet today decided to set up a state commission of inquiry into all the events linked to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination. According to initial information, only Minister Ehud Baraq opposed the establishment of an inquiry commission. He believes a Shin Bet internal inquiry is sufficient."]

Measures Taken Against Qiryat Arba', Kakh Inciters

TA0711112295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that measures will be taken today against four residents of Qiryat Arba' who had praised the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in front of television cameras. He pointed out that the legal authorities are doing everything possible to avert incitement. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that Minister Shahal made these remarks while touring the Green Line.

The Jerusalem District Court has accepted the appeal of the State Attorney's Office and ruled that former Kakh activist No'am Federman would remain under house arrest until the legal proceedings against him are completed and that leaving his house will require the approval of the commander of the Central Command. This is reported by our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky.

Qiryat Arba' Council Denounces Remarks by Resident

TA0711163295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Qiryat Arba' Council has decided to denounce the remarks of Qiryat Arba' resident Arye Ben-Yosef, who applauded the assassination of the prime minister. The council resolution states that Ben-Yosef's remarks give Qiryat Arba' a bad reputation and disqualify the man from association with the settlement.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that police visited the home of Kfar Tapuah resident David Axelrod today, apparently to arrest him, but he was not there. Our correspondent notes that the police must have decided to arrest Axelrod in the wake of his remarks on a Qol Yisra'el program to the effect that no Jew was assassinated but rather a traitor was eliminated.

EYAL's Raviv: Group To Change Name If Outlawed

TA0711144695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Nov 95 p 22

[Report by Buqi Na'e, Alex Fishman, and Nisim Dowek]

[FBIS Translated Text] The police are looking for Avishay Raviv, leader of the extreme right-wing group EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem], on suspicion that he was involved in the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Police detectives went to his home two nights ago, but he was not there. They left a summons for him.

The assassin Yig'al 'Amir was remanded for another 15 days yesterday, while his brother Hagay was remanded for another seven days in custody. During his interrogation, Hagay confessed that he knew of his brother's plans and that he had prepared the dumdum bullets that killed Rabin. Chief Superintendent Moti Naftali, head of the Hayarqon Precinct investigation department, told the court that the police believe Yig'al and Hagay 'Amir were members of Kahana Hay and that other members of the group knew about the planned assassination and may have even abetted it.

Our military commentator Alex Fishman adds: At this point, the Shin Bet has no evidence to corroborate the police claim that members of Kahana Hay helped the assassin plan and perpetrate the murder.

Our correspondent Nisim Dowek adds: In a phone call from his hideout, EYAL leader Avishay Raviv told me yesterday: "Yig'al 'Amir was associated with us, but he was not an active member of EYAL's hardcore. He did not talk to us about murdering the prime minister."

[Dowek] Why have you gone into hiding?

[Raviv] I know that there is a manhunt for us. They broke into my home in Qiryat Arba' on Monday night. They searched the place, found material of incitement belonging to the organization, and left after an hour. I know that I am being sought. They left me a summons to report for questioning. It says that I am being summoned for questioning on suspicion of harming state security.

[Dowek] Would you like to issue a statement?

[Raviv] We deny any connection to the event. That is not our way. We do not break the law. We do not condone the murder of any Jew.

[Dowek] Is there room for soul-searching on the part of the extreme right-wing groups?

[Raviv] No, there is no room for any soul-searching. Only time will tell whether this event was timely. Perhaps it will only strengthen the peace process. It should not have happened, but you could see it coming. We must go on until we bring down the government.

[Dowek] Do you fear you may be outlawed?

[Raviv] I believe there will be such an intention. If we are outlawed, we will operate under another name.

Settler Leaders Receive Death Threats From Radicals

TA0711154495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Unknown people have painted the fences of the 'Etzyon Bloc settlement of Ma'ale 'Amos with graffiti that says "We Are All Yig'al 'Amir" and "Arabs Not Wanted Here." This was reported by our correspondent Gil Litman. The Samaria and Judaea Police have launched an investigation.

In Bene Beraq, unknown persons vandalized two sites set up in memory of Yitzhaq Rabin. A small fire at the corner of Hamakabim and Abu-Hatzeira Streets in Bene Beraq destroyed a memorial site where candles and the prime minister's picture had been placed. Unknown persons removed a similar memorial site in front of the Bene Beraq Workers Council building. David Zakut, chairman of the Bene Beraq branch of Labor, told our correspondent Yo'av Ya'aqov that a complaint has been lodged with the police. The Bene Beraq Municipality has condemned the deeds.

On Jerusalem's Ben-Matityahu Street, hate graffiti was sprayed saying that Rabin was a victim of peace and that Peres will be next. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the police are investigating. The Jerusalem Municipality was asked to erase the graffiti.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have received death threats. Our settlement affairs correspondent reports that following the assassination, Council Chairman Uri Ari'el, spokesman Aharon Domb, and several other members of the settlement establishment received telephone calls that consisted of invectives and even death threats. The council spokesman told our correspondent that members of radical right-wing organizations threatened to murder him for sharply denouncing the assassination and for saying that the community to which he belongs should conduct some soul-searching.

Activists Questioned About Assassination, Released

TA0711154995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Avi Lifshitz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] It has been reported that the police have failed to establish the claim that assassin Yig'al 'Amir and his brother Hagay are connected with radical right-wing organizations. Our correspondent Yariv Ben- Yehuda reports that four radical activists have been questioned by the police on the issue but were released for lack of evidence against them.

German Paper Reports Rabin Ordered al-Shaqaqi Attack

AU0611173495 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 6 Nov 95 pp 168-172

[Unattributed report: "'Start Making the Coffins'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The murder in Malta of leading Palestinian terrorist Fathi al-Shaqaqi was committed by the Israeli intelligence service Mossad. But the operation, which was carried out perfectly, has had a detrimental effect on the interests of the Jewish state: The spiral of violence is moving faster, "Islamic Jihad" has vowed bloody revenge.

Shortly after 1000 on 26 October, an inconspicuous middle-aged man asked for a room "just for a couple of hours" in the Hotel Diplomat in the city of Sliema on the Mediterranean island of Malta. He said he had just arrived on the ferry from Libya and wanted "to kill time" until catching his flight to Damascus.

The Libyan passport that he presented to the receptionist was issued in the name of Ibrahim Shawish. Toward 1130, the man left the hotel, the key to his room in his pocket — he apparently did not want his absence to be noticed. He left on foot.

At 1230, the quiet guest bought a shirt in a Marks & Spencer store near the hotel, and shortly afterward he bought three children's T-shirts at Bernardi's. The time of purchase shown on the receipt is 1257; 18 minutes later, Shawish was dead.

Passers-by said later that an oriental-looking young man in jeans and black shirt walked calmly toward the guest, who was about to reenter the hotel. All of a sudden, the oriental man drew a gun with a silencer and fired several shots. The police found five 9-mm bullets in the head of the murdered man. The killer had jumped onto a motorcycle driven by an accomplice. No cartridge cases were at the site of the murder, stolen number plates were used — professionals at work.

As late as two days after the attack, the Malta police released the real identity of the victim — and caused a sensation in the Middle East. The killed man was the leader of the Palestinian "Islamic Jihad," the head of what is probably the most dangerous terrorist organization in that region at present: Fathi al-Shaqaqi, aged 45.

Following a visit to Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi, the Palestinian was on his way back to Damascus, the headquarters of his terrorist group, and had to stop over in Malta. Owing to the UN embargo, Tripoli can only be reached on the Malta ferry or by land.

Al-Shaqaqi's murderers seem to have been informed about every detail of his trip — including the fact that the fundamentalist terrorist chief preferred to travel alone. Al-Shaqaqi seems to have considered his disguise as a inconspicuous businessman to be the best life insurance. As an additional precaution, he had shaved off his beard and wore a wig.

After the deadly attack, there were allegations that Yasir 'Arafat's much-praised special unit "Force 17" had gotten rid of the Islamist opponent to peace in order to enable 'Ararfet to continue his negotiations with the Israelis. The PLO leader was outraged at the rumors and denied them. In fact, everything indicates that the Israeli intelligence service Mossad was to blame, although the government in Jerusalem denies any responsibility for the attack.

Gideon Esra, a former high-ranking intelligence service official, put it quite differently. The retired Israeli said that Al-Shaqaqi's execution is "a present to the Israeli people" that is worth imitating. And correspondent Josef Lapid said in a television show: "Congratulations to the Mossad agents for their professionalism, for their heroic deed" — the audience in the studio raged with enthusiasm.

On close examination, one could not fail to notice that even Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's routine denial suggested deep satisfaction over Al-Shaqaqi's death. Although he did not want to comment on the operation direct, the Nobel Peace Prize winner said that the death of a terrorist "certainly does not" make him "sad."

Research by DER SPIEGEL, which is based on information from intelligence services in Western capitals, shows that the prime minister had a more than passing interest in the operation — he is said to have ordered Al-Shaqaqi's execution personally.

Rabin is not the first head of government in the history of the Jewish state who would answer terrorism with counter-terrorism, according to the principle in the Bible: An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Mossad won its reputation of being a brilliant and ruthless intelligence service through its meticulously planned executions of uncomfortable opponents — revenge by order of the state, whenever the alleged "interest of Israel" has required it.

Following the massacre at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Prime Minister Golda Meir gave the go-ahead for a merciless retaliation campaign. A dozen of names of actual or suspected "Black September" terrorists were on the hit list that the old lady, together with her "Committee X," consisting of the inner cabinet and the secret service chiefs, released. "Send the guys out," Golda Meir told him, Aaron Jariv, who was then special adviser for questions of terrorism, said shortly before he died in 1994. The operation's code name: "God's revenge."

Prime Minister Rabin is said to have decided to eliminate the Jihad leader in February 1995. Shortly before that, Al-Shaqaqi had boasted in an interview — proud, triumphant, and even laughing scornfully — that two of his terrorists killed 21 Israelis and themselves in a suicide attack at the Bet-Lid crossing near Netanja. Among the victims were many young soldiers who were waiting for the bus. Rabin, who was also deeply struck as supreme commander, gave the go-ahead for tracking down Al-Shaqaqi.

In Israel, all information on Mossad (literal translation: institute) are so secret that even the name of its head ("memune") is never officially reported. He has the initials S.S. and, being a former "chief of operations" of the service, he is an expert for unusual orders. Now, in his last year in office, the Al-Shaqaqi case was a special opportunity for the Mossad chief to excel.

After four months of research, the Mossad memune made his head of government an "offer": Through the high-tech division "Unit 8200," he had managed to gain electronic access to a branch of the Syrian military intelligence service. The service monitored Al-Shaqaqi closely, perhaps even without his knowing it. The Israelis thus got knowledge of every step the terrorist took in Damascus and every one of his habits: ideal conditions for liquidating him.

But Rabin rejected an attack in Damascus for "political reasons." If Israel had been associated with such an operation, the careful contacts with Syria, the most important Middle Eastern state that is not yet integrated into the peace process, would have come to an immediate end. Rabin also ordered top security ("state secret") treatment of every further operation by Mossad, and he even personally prohibited the involvement of the European center of the Israeli secret service in Brussels.

When the Mossad chief was informed of Al-Shaqaqi's travel plans three days before he embarked on his trip to Libya, he proposed to seize the ferry from or to Malta and to kidnap the terrorist on the high seas. Rabin did not want to agree to this plan for foreign- policy reasons — seizing a passenger ferry in international waters would have had a catastrophic effect on Israel's reputation and the Middle East peace process. Rabin also feared the rage of the superpower United States.

That left the Malta option. Rabin is said to have made the decision without informing the inner cabinet, as was the case in Golda Meir's time; only the heads of the secret service, that is the heads of the domestic service Shabak and the military intelligence service Aman, were informed beside the Mossad memune.

At Rabin's request, the operation also had to be kept secret from the U.S. CIA, whose chief, John Deutch, was visiting his counterpart in Tel Aviv at the time. Mossad maintains traditionally friendly relations with the CIA: The Americans share all Middle East information with the Israelis; the same is not always true the other way around, much to the CIA bosses' annoyance.

Mossad activated its "sleepers" in Libya; a small, but highly efficient network of agents. Reports were received by the "institute's" headquarters north of Tel Aviv almost every hour. The Israelis were even informed of the talks between Al-Qadhdhafi and Al-Shaqaqi: They talked about a million [currency unspecified] gift by Libya's leader to Islamic Jihad, which promised to intensify the suicide attacks against Israel.

The Mossad chief participated personally in the operation against the top terrorist. He commanded the operation from a vessel in the Mediterranean. The official papers said that the freighter was on its way to Italy from the Israeli port of Haifa with cement on board. Mossad — which is known for technical inventiveness — specially prepared the huge containers. A "Bell" helicopter was hidden in a container that could be opened by a sliding door.

A team had gone to Malta beforehand and done logistic preparatory work there. A "Group Chet" smuggled arms and ammunition into a rented house and left again. A "Group Kidon" (bayonet), a special unit trained in all forms of killing and frequently recruited from the military elite Sajeret Matkal unit, was commissioned to liquidate the "object." A "Group Kof" was in charge of communications between the operations group and headquarters; radio contact with the agents was maintained at all times.

The execution was carried out according to a common Mossad pattern, which had already been used during the murder of Palestinian leader Mamun Meresh in the streets of Athens in 1983: The hit team, consisting of two men, operated from a motorcycle. The only problem, which has to be solved anew every time: the safe evacuation of the attackers.

In Malta, the stolen blue Yamaha motorcycle, license plate number QM 6904, was found near the beach, with the ignition key still in the lock. That is probably also where the helicopter touched down and took the two Mossad agents back on board their "mother ship" — and back to Israel, together with their supreme chief, afterward.

What is celebrated as a "model operation" within Mossad, is proving a Pyrrhic victory from the political point of view.

Prime Minister Rabin may have decapitated Islamic Jihad for the time being, but he has not made his country more secure in terms of terrorist attacks. On the contrary: After the attack, the PLO, Israel's partner in the peace process, is becoming more radical again; the fundamentalist Hamas is again unifying against the "Zionist enemy." And, within Islamic Jihad, the terrorist cells are growing again, fast and autonomously, as its founder had intended them to.

Fathi al-Shaqaqi founded the organization when he was a student in Egypt in the late 1970's, after he had left the Muslim Brotherhood. He agreed with his fellow Muslims on rejecting the West's way of life, but unlike them, Al-Shaqaqi wanted to carry the liberation struggle into the occupied territories by way of a "holy war."

His initial circle consisted exclusively of university graduates, some 50 of them. The graduated medical doctor returned to his home in the early 1980's, where he worked as a pediatrician in the August-Victoria hospital in east Jerusalem. Apart from the Koran, the cosmopolitan man counted Western classics, such as

Shakespeare and Dante, among his favorite books. For some time, Al-Shaqaqi, who was married with three children, led a normal, middle-class life.

His writings, which were increasingly influenced by Ayatollah Khomeini (he met his idol in Tehran), got him into conflict with the Israeli authorities. After almost two years in prison, Prime Minister Rabin had him extradited. Al-Shaqaqi found refuge in Damascus. There he received high-ranking visitors from the Arab world — and probably also donations, mainly from Iran, which allowed him to send off terrorists. If he had enough money, the Jihad chief proclaimed, "there would be a suicide attack like the one in Bet Lid every week."

The Gaza Strip, where Al-Shaqaqi was born, soon became the center of Islamic Jihad's political activities. In many mosques in Gaza, the religious fanatic ideas were welcomed enthusiastically. But, recently, support among the Palestinians declined.

Experts say that, before the murder, Al-Shaqaqi's organization was seen favorably by a mere 4 percent of the population in Gaza. Owing to the successes of the peace policy following the Oslo agreement, which slowly became tangible, the radical opponents of moving closer to the Jewish state lost ground. Apart from that, an increasing number of Palestinians blamed the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists for the deterioration of their living conditions: The Israelis have responded to each attack by sealing off the areas where Arabs live, which means that the people there often lose their entire family incomes.

Like the Hamas resistance movement, which is aiming to come to a partial agreement with 'Arafat's autonomy government, Islamic Jihad would also have been well advised to think about a new strategy. There were a few indications that they were correcting their course: In spite of all bloodthirsty rhetoric, in spring 1995, Al-Shaqaqi ordered all terrorist operations against the Israelis to be stopped temporarily. Apparently he wanted to show that the peace process can fail even without such operations.

There were also internal rifts becoming apparent in the organization. Jihad co-founder 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awda complained in June that Al-Shaqaqi was trying to "take over the entire movement." But Islamic Jihad is "not private property." It is quite possible, therefore, that the terrorist organization was facing a split.

That is one of the reasons why 'Arafat's advisers and moderate Israelis consider the Mossad murder in Malta to be a grave political mistake. It threatens to destroy all efforts to achieve a peaceful agreement with the Islamist opposition, an 'Arafat confidante complained.

Ramadan 'abd-al-Shallah has now been appointed the new head of Jihad — a not very encouraging move: He is said to be putting together new suicide commandos already. Like his friend Al-Shaqaqi, 'Abd-al-Shallah, 39, who lives in Beirut, comes from among the highly educated Palestinians; the preacher last taught in Tampa (Florida).

In attacks on two buses in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, the two suicide attackers were killed and 11 Israelis wounded. Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for both attacks. "Start making the coffins for Rabin and Peres," a radical in Gaza shouted.

"These were only spontaneous operations," an Israeli terrorist expert said, adding glumly: "The official revenge operations will have a very different dimension."

Government Refuses To Comment

TA0411184695 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin personally supervised the assassination of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the German weekly DER SPIEGEL claims in an article to be published on 6 November.

The article details the steps in the assassination operation. It says that the head of the Israeli Mosad commanded the operation from a vessel in the Mediterranean, which carried two helicopters. It said IDF [Israel Defense Forces] computer experts managed to break into a computer network operated by Syrian intelligence, which enabled it to follow al-Shaqaqi's movements. The prime minister's bureau refused to comment on the report.

Expert Views Rabin's 'Two Grave Errors'

BR0611135795 Rome IL MESSAGGERO in Italian 6 Nov 95 p 3

[Interview with Professor Ephraim Inbar by unidentified correspondent in Jerusalem on 5 November: "He Betrayed Public Opinion, Which Is Opposed to Peace With 'Arafat" — first paragraph is IL MESSAGGERO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "There are madmen everywhere, but Rabin also died because he and his government declined to take due account of the views of the majority of Israelis regarding the peace process." Ephraim Inbar, a specialist in Israeli affairs and a professor at the same university as the one attended by the prime minister's assassin, does not justify the attacker, but, in a way, he "understands" him.

[Correspondent] Did Rabin die because he "betrayed" Israel?

[Inbar] I am not saying that. However, he committed two grave errors. First of all, his government adopted the politics of the extreme Left instead of adhering to the platform that it presented before the election. A glance at the figures is sufficient: Some 30 percent of the population supports the peace process, 40 percent is against it, and the don't knows account for 30 percent. Only 20 percent of Israelis are in favor of a Palestinian state, and as far as the Golan Heights are concerned, I would say that 70 percent are against granting a single inch to Syria in exchange for peace. Rabin thus went beyond the bounds of popular consensus.

[Correspondent] You mentioned two grave errors.

[Inbar] The second was his personal style. Rabin was very "Israeli" in the sense that he had little regard for opinions and problems with which he did not identify personally. There are settlers in the settlements. They feel that their future, their homes, and their lifestyles are threatened by the concessions made to 'Arafat, and the same applies to the orthodox Jews, and to the settlers on the Golan Heights, who are afraid that the Heights will be returned to Syria. Instead of accompanying his politics with a brotherly attitude, Rabin exasperated people and played into the hands of the extremists. We heard him called a "traitor" and a "Nazi," and each time Rabin responded by insulting his attacker. Even his friends, the people in his own party, used to tell him to speak in a less aggressive tone to those who were merely demanding guarantees for their future.

[Correspondent] Those harsh words against Rabin also came from the opposition parties. Did they, too, not spur the assassin on?

[Inbar] I do not think so. Sharon was a friend of Rabin's, and former General Zeevi, also a right-winger, respected the old general turned prime minister. They would never, ever, have provoked his death. The right-wing parties have denied any involvement.

[Correspondent] Older people can understand that Rabin, who played an active part in Isreal's security in the past, would never have sold the country down the river. Young people's memories do not reach back so far into history.

[Inbar] It is true: Young people tend to go to extremes more readily.

[Correspondent] Will the future work in favor of the peace process, in your opinion?

[Inbar] I am sure that the tone of the dispute between Right and Left will be lowered in the immediate future, but the clash would become heated again if there were an early election, and I would not rule out further episodes of violence.

Iraqi Envoy Warned Against Inciting 'Sabotage'

JN0811144295 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our informed sources in the Jordanian capital, Amman, have learned that the tyrant's embassy there is carrying out activities that contravene well-known diplomatic norms. The sources said that the Jordanian Government has warned the Baghdad ruler's ambassador in Amman, Nuri al-Wayyis, against continuing to incite sabotage and sedition activities. The sources said this constitutes the third such warning.

The sources believe Jordanian authorities may expel Nuri al-Wayyis if he continues to carry out the Baghdad regime's desperate and deplorable practices against people in countries that are still linked with it in tense diplomatic relations [reference to allegations of Iraqi incitement of Jordanian individuals to work against the Jordanian Government].

Trade With Syria Suspended Over Trade Imbalance

MM0811161995 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 8 Nov 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Jordan Decides Suddenly To Suspend Trade Exchange With Syria for Economic Reasons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Jordan decided suddenly yesterday to suspend shipment operations and trade exchange with Syria. Jordanian Trade Ministry sources have said that the measure is to do with the fact that the trade balance between the two countries is tilting in Syria's favor.

The sources added: Trade operations between us and Damascus are currently suspended, and Jordanian importers have "frozen" their activities vis-a-vis importing from Syria in implementation of the government decision.

Jordan had taken measures under which it imposed tight restrictions on the movement of some 17,000 freight trucks operating constantly across the border between the two countries.

The sources declined to link these measures with the political differences between Amman and Damascus. The sources said that the matter is not at all political; it has to do with the fact that the agreed trade balance has tilted in the Syrians' favor.

Syria refused to participate, and it prevented Lebanon from participating, in the Amman economic summit, accusing Jordan of working — through the summit — to perpetuate Israel's economic hegemony at the expense of the economies of the states in the region.

Saudi Minister To Visit Before 'End of Nov'

JN0811102095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] High-level diplomatic sources told AL-RA'Y that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal is expected to visit Jordan before the end of November. The sources said al-Faysal will discuss means of fostering bilateral relations as well as developments in the Middle East, chief among which is the peace process.

The sources confirmed that Prince Faysal will make the visit after the arrival of 'Abdallah al-Sudayri, Saudi ambassador-designate to Jordan, who is due in Amman next week to present his credentials.

Crown Prince Returns From Rabin's Funeral

JN0711212095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, accompanied by Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd, returned to Amman this evening after a visit to Israel today.

During the visit, Crown Prince Hasan extended condolences over the passing away of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He also held talks with Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman and Israel's acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Here are more details:

During his visit to Israel today, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan met with Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman at the Israeli presidents' headquarters. The meeting was attended by Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd, Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, the Jordanian ambassador in Tel Aviv, and the Israeli ambassador in Amman.

The crown prince extended condolences to President Weizman over the passing away of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The attendees stressed the importance of continuing the peace process, so it will achieve its noble objectives for the future generations.

Earlier today, Crown Prince Hasan met with Israel's Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres who said that the visit was very important and means much for the Rabin family and for all Israelis. Talks also dealt with ways to enhance the peace process as well as the latest developments in the region and the good results of the Amman economic summit in light of the aspirations of peoples in the region, so they can resume their development march and enjoy the fruits of security, stability, and a safe and decent life.

The crown prince and Peres said that Rabin's assassination will only increase the determination of the peace-loving people among Jordanians and Israels and in the region to continue the peace process until a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace is achieved. Everyone in the region and the world is looking forward to this peace, they added. [passage omitted]

The crown prince visited the Rabin family home in Tel Aviv. His highness extended condolences to Mrs. Leah Rabin and the Rabin family. This met with applause and cheers from the people gathered there.

During the meeting, his highness stressed the need to go ahead with the building of peace more than before in the interest of the coming generations, so they can live in stability and peace.

Mrs. Leah Rabin voiced her profound thanks and appreciation for the noble feelings expressed by His Majesty King Husayn in the speech he delivered yesterday during Rabin's funeral service, as well as for the great meanings it carried.

She also pointed to the noble meanings and feelings carried by His Highness Prince Hasan's visit today. She asserted that the late prime minister achieved what he was dreaming of in terms of peace and good neighborliness between the two countries. She hoped that efforts would continue to complete the peace process, so all peoples in the region will live in security and peace and remove the feelings of grudge and hatred once and for all.

Columnist Criticizes Reactions to Rabin's Death

JN0711210195 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic
7-13 Nov 95 p 16

["More Than A Word" column by Hilmi al-Asmar: "About Enmity and Amity!!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ranking officials can make statements denoting pain, grief, and sorrow on the demise of one of the killers who manifested enmity to our nation throughout their entire lives. These officials can also speak as warmly as they wish about their relations with Rabin and others, the leaders of the terrorist and murderous gangs. These officials can also take one step further along what is reprehensible and surprising to the ordinary Jordanian citizen who feels he does not belong to this bizarre circus. Yes, these officials can even do more than this.

But no one can change a distasteful and ugly fact the Jews had brought about as a result of which a huge barrier was erected between us and them, especially since what they talk about has nothing to do with comprehensive, just, and lasting peace but resembles a forced marriage that cannot last, and, if it does last, results in bickering, problems, and finally divorce.

If some want to challenge us, we defy them from this rostrum to have one of the unbiased research centers conduct a referendum by taking a sample in Jordan to see what the people think of what is taking place which is impossible to believe. Has Rabin, who was a killer and a criminal, become a martyr, and Fathi al-Shaqaqi a terrorist?

We sound the alarm from this beloved rostrum and declare for all to hear that there is a limit to what people can endure of this circus. We do not believe that any wise man can convince any Arab or Muslim, even by force or terrorism, that the holy Koran did not enunciate the full truth when it said the following about the Jews: Strongest among men in enmity to the believers will thou find the Jews and the Pagans. [Koranic verse]

By God, how then can these become people who love us the most overnight?

Paper Commends Peres' Intention To Pursue Talks

JN0811100795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
8 Nov 95 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "Meeting the Peace Requirements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During his visit to West Jerusalem yesterday to extend condolences, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan stressed what His Majesty King Husayn had earlier emphasized when he said that the current challenge facing the region in the aftermath of the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is that of pursuing the peace process with strong determination and resolve until a just and comprehensive peace is realized in fulfillment of a strong international demand.

Jordan's persistent efforts to complete the peace process and prevent its enemies from achieving their goals are in line not only with a strong Jordanian and Palestinian desire to see the banner of peace flutter high in the skies of the region, but also with the desire of almost all members of the international community. This desire was clear in the large participation of world leaders in the funeral of the late prime minister.

There is a deep awareness on the part of all sides concerned that those who committed the assassination were targeting the peace process. This prompted world leaders to assert their support for the continuation of efforts for peace.

The acting Israeli prime minister did well when he announced before the international gathering of world leaders his government's unwavering adherence to the peace option and its determination to continue without procrastination or excuses what Yitzhaq Rabin had begun. Any delay in meeting the requirements of peace may result in wasting a unique opportunity to accomplish the aspired peace.

The Jordanian leadership's participation in Yitzaq Rabin's funeral can be viewed as the best opportunity under the current circumstances to urge Israel to continue to tread the path of peace, and to encourage Rabin's successor to implement what was agreed upon, particularly on the Palestinian track. This bore fruit yesterday when the Palestinian-Israeli meetings resumed to implement the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, including adherence to the redeployment timetable and holding the Palestinian elections early next year as scheduled.

Writer Gloats Over Rabin's Assassination

JN0711171895 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
6 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Fahd al-Rimawi: "God Be My Witness, I Am Overjoyed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] God be my witness, I am overjoyed. Yitzhaq Rabin "perished" a week after martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi was assassinated. Like Fathiyah al-Shaqaqi, Leah Rabin is now a widow.

God be my witness, I am overjoyed. Rabin fell to the ground smeared by his blood. This is a just punishment for the chauvinistic sentiments and settlement plans he had instilled in his people and for the pure Arab and Palestinian blood he had spilled during his sinful life.

God be my witness, I am overjoyed. The peace process has deteriorated; the Hebrew state has been shaken; U.S. plans have been undermined; the balance in the Middle East has been upset; and the political situation in the region has returned to square one.

God be my witness, I gloat over the situation of Rabin's allies, who depended and relied on him; who made the destiny of their countries dependent on him; and who thought that they are safe, secure, and immortal under his protection.

God be my witness, I gloat over the situation of the Israelites and the sons of Uncle Sam who made a big, universal clamor about Arab "terrorism" and Islamic extremism. As it turned out, terrorism grows in their own backyard. It killed their leaders at the hands of their own people in Oklahoma and Tel Aviv. Thus, their blue eyes were filled with the tears of calamity. They cried, just as they made us cry. They had a taste of their own medicine. Let them know that God's mills grind slow but sure.

God be my witness that I am overjoyed. A cycle of violence has been set in motion in the Israeli entity. This cycle will grow to tear apart the facade of democracy, ignite civil war, destroy the domestic front, undermine social peace, and expose the reality of the Zionist entity as one immersed in fascism, racism, and Talmudic grudges.

God be my witness that I am overjoyed. This time, the threat came from within Israel itself and the bullets were fired by its own sons, and not by the enemies. Israel thought that it is safe from danger. It thought that it had imposed its unjust peace on neighboring countries. It also thought that it is qualified to lead Arabs and others in the Middle East.

God be my witness that I am overjoyed. The "economic solution" theory expounded by Shim'on Peres has been defeated. Shim'on Peres' wager that people can be preoccupied with ways to earn a living without paying attention to political issues has failed. Rabin's killer is neither hungry nor jobless. He is a university student who was moved by political ideology, and not economic ambitions.

God be my witness that I am overjoyed. It has been proven that even in a state like Israel, satisfying the people is the basis of security and stability. The coalescence of the base and the leadership is a guarantee for growth, stability, and progress. The survival of regimes and rulers depends on paying attention to the realities of the people. The United States itself failed to protect its most treasured man in the Middle East in general, and in Israel in particular, from some mortal bullets fired by an undistinguished student, through which he changed the turn of events.

God be my witness that I am overjoyed. The game of false peace has collapsed. The Arabs and foreigners who are involved in it must now recalculate and reconsider their situation. They must also do something before it is too late. Rabin's assassination has proven that peace between us and our enemies is impossible; that our conflict with them is one of existence and destiny; that our tears make them laugh and our celebrations make them weep; and that our acceptance of those invaders and of peace with them does not mean at all that they accept us and accept peace with us. Oh East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet. Ask Rabin.

Daily Urges Israel, West To Confront 'Extremism'

JN0711173695 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 7 Nov 95 p 19

[Editorial: "The Responsibility of the Israeli Government and the Western Media"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was assassinated by an Israeli extremist, who expressed joy when he was told in prison that Rabin was dead. The incident has put an end to the unfair classification of extremism, with which the Western media machine used to brand the Arabs and Muslims during decades of Arab- Israeli conflict, violence, and counterviolence in the region.

The bullets that killed Rabin made the international community realize that the Israeli opponents of peace have stepped up terrorism to the extent of killing their prime minister. Therefore, those who have pledged to back peace are now dutybound to stop bowing to the Israeli extremists, who are trying to block efforts to bring about security and stability in the region based on just and comprehensive peace. These extremists went too far by killing their prime minister, who chose negotiations, as well as Israel's peaceful merger into the region based on coexistence and cooperation with neighboring nations in this sensitive part of the world.

In light of this responsibility, the Israeli Government and the United States in particular and the international community in general will either surrender to or confront extremism with more positive steps toward negotiations in order to attain a comprehensive solution to all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, to start larger cooperation and development, and to improve the standard of living in the region under the canopy of security, stability, and full respect for human rights.

The indifference of the Western media organs over the past two days to the dangers of the Israeli extremism and Jewish fundamentalism, which have long committed atrocities against the Palestinian people and even killed Israel's prime minister, does not only surprise us, but also indicates the influence of extremists on the mass media. This influence interprets the biased campaigns branding all the Arabs and Muslims with terrorism, extremism, and fundamentalism whenever an incident occurs here or a bullet is fired there.

The lesson derived from the assassination of Rabin is that prejudice, bias, and grudge hurt even those who support and spread them. Therefore, the transitional government in Israel and any future government should do much to remove the mountains of grudge against peace and equitable peaceful coexistence with the neighbors—a grudge which has taken roots through many years of injustice and hostility that Israel practiced against neighboring Palestinians and Arabs.

We hope that the Jewish terrorist assassination of Rabin will lead to a shift in Israeli and Western politics, media, and education in order to confront fundamentalism in Israel that does not want security and stability for any nations in the region, including the Israeli people.

Airplane Receives Threat; No Bomb Found

JN0711194595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1918 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Royal Jordanian airliner left Vienna Airport at 2025 today for Amman.

A Royal Jordanian source said that the airliner, coming from Chicago to Amman via Amsterdam, flight no. 264, was forced to land at Vienna Airport at 1337 today following a bomb threat, which turned out to be a false alarm.

The source added that the airliner was thoroughly searched, but nothing was found. The source noted that Royal Jordanian was forced to take this measure for reassurance to protect the safety of passengers and crew.

The source said that the airliner is scheduled to arrive at Queen Alia International Airport at 0025 today.

Forced Landing in Vienna Confirmed

NC0711142195 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek 1400 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Jordanian Airlines plane made a forced landing in Vienna following information that a bomb had been planted onboard. According to a statement made in Amman by a senior Jordanian official, the information was given by telephone to the Jordanian authorities. The plane took off from Amsterdam heading for Amman. The news report has been confirmed by the Larnaca control tower.

Buwayz: Talks 'Frozen' Before Rabin's Death

NC0711180695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a meeting today the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee discussed the peace negotiations and the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and its possible repercussions. Committee Chairman Amin al-Hafiz said the stance adopted by Syria and Lebanon is wise because they cling to the constants on the basis of which they entered the peace talks, particularly when you compare this stance with the stances of other countries.

Al-Hafiz said the committee reviewed the results of the Amman economic conference, noting that like the Casablanca summit it did not produce tangible results. He described the plans discussed at the conference as huge but unreal, unable to be implemented without the participation of Syria and Lebanon. [passage omitted]

In a statement at the meeting Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said Rabin's death did not freeze the negotiations; they were already frozen. As cited by al-Hafiz, he said the United States has an interest in resuming the negotiations as the U.S. election date draws near. He said Israel prefers to wait until after the elections. He said Israel is strong in war but asked if, perhaps, it might have weaknesses in peace. He said the assassination of Rabin creates an endless problem. He asked what will happen in Israel if the settlers have to be evacuated and the agreements implemented.

Hizballah Radio on Rabin Death, Arab Reaction

NC0711133395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Nov 95

["Spotlights on Events" program: "The Assassination of Rabin" — Initial Remarks]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no doubt that the assassination of the enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by a Zionist youth will have a major impact on Israel and the region. Pending further information, let us consider some initial remarks:

1. The first shock to the Israeli society was caused because the assassin was a Zionist, not an Arab or a Muslim. Consequently, the incident will open controversy to the balance and fragile structure of the Zionist entity.

2. The Zionist society appears divided on the developments relating to the settlement process. The assassination of Rabin proved that the Zionist entity is not prepared to follow through with any settlement process. Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres were merely exploiting the gains of peace without footing any bill. This confirms that the Syrian stance is sound because it notes the Israeli obstacles and shows Israel is not prepared to make a decision.

3. The assassination of Rabin proved the settlement process is fragile. The reaction to the assassination generated concern about the future of the process. Although certain officials stressed the process would continue, it was not explained how.

4. The assassination showed that the arrogant policy and western media are flagrantly biased toward the Zionist entity. They fabricated issues and stances and ignored facts. Rabin was described as the maker and even a hero of peace. The western media ignored the fact that Rabin was the one who ordered breaking the bones of Palestinian children. He was a member of the oldest terrorist group that massacred Palestinians in the 1940's and later.

5. Certain Arab officials looked like (?midgets) as they hastened to express their sadness to Rabin's death, who is their partner in the so-called peace process. These leaders did not react to the acts of aggression against Lebanese and Palestinians by the Israeli occupation forces at Rabin's orders. We did not hear them express a word of regret over the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi. The enemy admitted that the assassination decision was made by Rabin and personally supervised by the Mosad chief.

6. The world ignored the fact that Rabin's killer was a Zionist. They honored Rabin and ignored Zionist terrorism which killed Rabin after he spread it worldwide. The question we want to ask is what if Rabin's killer had been an Arab or a Muslim? Would the world have created an uproar, made threats, and deployed fleets near our shores? Would it have made a hue and cry over Islamic terrorism? Would Rabin's killer be accused of madness to exonerate Zionism of terrorism once again? Is Rabin's assassination an act of terror or a dangerous sin by an insane person? If this is an act of terrorism, why doesn't the world talk of Zionist terrorism that engulfed the world and finally boomeranged against its maker?

7. Would Rabin's successors complete his policy vis-a-vis the settlement process or would the matter be frozen even on the Palestinian track, not to speak of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks? It seems this possibility is more likely.

8. No one can replace Rabin as a military leader who struggled for a Zionist point of view and sought peace that does not relinquish enemy gains, but seeks more gains at the expense of Arabs and their rights.

9. Would certain Arab leaders, who have not stopped making concessions to the enemy, be deterred and

convinced that the Zionist beast, who nurtures legendary illusions, will not be content no matter what concessions they make? Every time the Arabs make a step, the Zionists ask for more. The path of peace [words indistinct] concessions but stems from cohesion and safeguarding rights by sticking to firm demands.

Delegation Leaves for EU Talks

NC0811121795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, left this morning for Brussels. He is leading an official delegation to talks with the European Commission on drafting a partnership and cooperation agreement between Lebanon and the EU. It will replace the existing cooperation agreement between the two sides, which dates back to 1977.

Prime Minister Stresses Stability in Administration

MM0811114095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Tariq Tarshishi: "Al-Hariri Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Cabinet Reshuffle Planned in Lebanon, Constitutional Reform Abandoned"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said that he expects the government situation in Lebanon to be "more stable" now that president Ilyas al-Hirawi's term has been extended for three years, and has ruled out a reshuffle in his second, current cabinet, formed last May.

Prime Minister al-Hariri told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, on the occasion of the third anniversary of his premiership in Lebanon and that of his first government's winning the confidence of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies in November 1992, that once the 1996 budget has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies before the end of this year the Government will work on a new electoral law which will be "balanced and reassuring to all", and whereby general parliamentary elections, based on it, would take place in Lebanon next summer.

In response to a question on the issue of constitutional reform, which President Ilyas al-Hirawi said that he wanted to propose to the council of ministers, Prime Minister al-Hariri said: "This issue has now been abandoned."

On his assessment of the last three years of his premiership, Prime Minister al-Hariri said: "These three years have been marked by confidence and stability, the Lebanese people's confidence in their homeland, and the world's confidence in Lebanon, owing to the security, economic, and political stability that Lebanon is currently enjoying." Starting his fourth year in government, Al- Hariri stressed that he promises the Lebanese people "more confidence in Lebanon and more stability in the political, security, and economic fields."

Several deputies polled by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on this occasion concur in the view that al-Hariri's presence at the head of the Lebanese Government in this phase following the civil wars has contributed to restoring Arab and world confidence in Lebanon, in view of al-Hariri's reputation as a successful businessman. Some deputies, however, have criticized the al-Hariri government for its failure to carry out the promised administrative reform and with regard to improving living conditions.

Kurdish Leader Meets al-Asad, Leaves for Tehran

NC0611162995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], called on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus yesterday evening. Talabani and al-Asad discussed the current situation in Iraq and the region, the future of Iraq, and relations between the PUK and the Syrian Arab Republic. Viewpoints were identical on most topics under discussion. The meeting lasted over two hours.

Talabani and his delegation left Damascus for Tehran last night en route to Kurdistan.

Britain's Rifkind Arrives on Official Visit

JN0811105095 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0955 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 8 Nov (SANA) — Malcolm Rifkind, British secretary of state for Foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived in Damascus at 1000 this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Rifkind is accompanied by Andrew Green, British assistant secretary of state for foreign affairs.

They were received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry staff, the British ambassador in Damascus, and the British Embassy's staff.

Rifkind gave statements to reporters in which he said that he looks forward to meeting President Hafiz al-Asad to be acquainted with Syria's vision of the current situation in the Middle East, and to holding talks with the foreign minister.

The British secretary noted that his country categorically supports the Middle East peace process. He added: We believe there is an opportunity for making very considerable progress as the foundations for peace have been laid. Progress must be made in this regard.

Rifkind said that peace in the region is the responsibility of the peoples of the region, adding: Countries from outside the region can extend help and support and make proposals. However, the peoples of the region should work for the achievement of peace.

Answering a question, he said: I believe there is a determination in Israel to press ahead with the peace process. There is a deep feeling of shock in Israel for the death and loss of Rabin. However, there is a determination that his death will not be in vain and that his policy will continue to be embraced by his successor.

Al-Shar' Receives Swedish Official Sten Andersson

JN0411210595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Sten Andersson, former Swedish Foreign Minister and the Swedish Government's special envoy for Middle Eastern affairs. The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Hasib al-Ustuwani, director of the Foreign Ministry's Western Europe Department; (Nord Lander), Swedish Ambassador in Damascus; (Charlotte Par), from the Swedish Foreign Ministry's Department of Political Affairs; and (Rolf Erickson), from the Swedish Foreign Ministry's Department of International Cooperation. Discussion during the meeting focused on the peace process and the current stalemate on the Syrian track because of the obstacles Israel is placing in the path of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Papers Demand 'Just,' 'Comprehensive' Peace

JN0711113495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Nov 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH discusses the genuine peace which the region needs. It says: Only just and comprehensive peace can turn the chapter of the bitter past and provide the necessary conditions to achieve the aspirations of the region's people to prosperity, development, advancement, and a bright future.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria has been and remains one of the most committed parties to peace. It adopted peace as a firm strategic option, proceeding from its good understanding of the reality and the requirements of the current phase, both on the Arab, regional, and international levels.

AL-BA'TH explains that the kind of peace Syria seeks is not just any kind of peace. It is not the peace of the separate and partial deals, compromises, bargains, secret negotiations, and cheap maneuvers which do not change anything. It seeks the genuine peace, the peace of the brave and dignity, which is approved by the world, law, and humanity; a peace that would end injustice and return full rights to the Arabs.

AL-BA'TH adds: This kind of peace is not a Syrian, Lebanese, or Arab demand only. Events, developments, and the various positions declared by all those concerned with the Middle East peace process confirm that this has also become a sweeping international demand. This requires everybody to double their efforts to return the peace process to its correct course and to remove the obstacles and hurdles facing it.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH demands Israel to take a specific and clear position and to abide by the principles of peace — the peace of justice and comprehensiveness.

AL-THAWRAH says that Israel is still intransigent. It rejects the requirements of peace and continues to build settlements and refuses to dismantle them. It also refuses to withdraw from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon in response to the principles of the just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH says it believes the U.S. effort to boost the peace process does not relieve the United States of its important responsibility — as the sponsor of, and full partner in the peace talks — to take an effective position that would make Israel pursue the option of genuine peace.

Commentary on Delay in Achieving Full Peace

JN0711155095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1239 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Many presidents and officials, who attended Yitzhaq Rabin's funeral, including President Clinton, urged Israel to push the peace process forward on all tracks in order to achieve the desired comprehensive peace in the region. It seems that pushing the peace process forward on the stalemated Syrian and Lebanese tracks was the focus of talks held by prominent presidents and officials with Shim'on Peres, Israel's acting prime minister.

The fact is that achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East has become an immediate need for the entire world inasmuch as it is for the region itself. As previous events have proven, world peace is affected to a great extent by the situation in the Middle East. Many countries have major interests in the Middle East. The stability of these interests depends on establishing a comprehensive peace in this region. We say comprehensive peace because partial agreements do not make peace, especially since Syria is a basic country in the region. Syria, through its stands and proposals, represents the wishes and aspirations of the Arab people. It is impossible to achieve the desired progress without Syria's participation in the peace process. Any agreement that is not based on justice cannot withstand events and developments, which are well known to be numerous and sudden.

It should be noted that the source of the stalemate on the Syrian track is Israel's procrastination in seeking a real and honorable peace. Syria only demands the implementation of Security Council resolutions based on the U.S. initiative and implementing the land-for-peace principle. If Israel at the time had responded to the essence of the U.S. initiative and Security Council resolutions and agreed to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders, the peace process would have witnessed a broad and important breakthrough.

It is no longer a secret to anyone that attempts to appease Israeli extremists — who support devouring, annexing, and Judaizing Arab territories — and which went as far as postponing talks on the Syrian track until next spring, obstructed the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and wasted time and effort. These attempts also increased the extremism of extremists as evidenced in the assassination of Rabin himself. This is given that the Labor Party came to power based on its commitment to achieving peace in the region. Along with this, if the Israeli intentions were true and the officials of Tel Aviv were determined to push the peace process forward through actual response to its bases and facts, it would be possible to compensate for the wasted time, especially since the path to peace is now known to people near and far.

Syria wants to restore all of the occupied Golan. This is its natural right. The Golan belongs to Syria and the people of the Golan have been waiting since 1967 for the return of their land to the motherland so that they could return to their homeland. If Israel withdraws from the Golan, it would become under the umbrella of international law and it would achieve real peace in return. As it is well known, Syria always respects its word and does not break a pledge it took upon itself. Syria chose the road to peace out of its belief in peace and its importance.

The achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region and moving toward an actual era of security and stability depends on Israel and the extent of its response to resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

It is now clear to everyone that the policy of procrastination and maneuvering does not only delay the achievement of a firm peace, but leads to tragedies as well. Meanwhile, a just, comprehensive, real, and honorable peace represents a firm and solid basis for security and stability and a sure guarantee for an atmosphere in which forgiveness prevails and grudge and hatred are absent.

Press: Peace Process Can Take No Further Delay

JN0811092595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Nov 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial headlined "Peace Means the Removal of the Occupation," AL-BA'TH says: Syria has honored its pledges and has made peace its course and goal. However, Syria has not given up its caution, for the enemies of peace are still refusing to comply with international legitimacy and its resolutions.

AL-BA'TH asks: Who obstructed the peace process and fruitlessly prolonged the negotiations? Who created snags and deliberately continued to kill the Lebanese and burn their towns and farms? The world, which welcomed Syria's response to the Madrid step and the Washington negotiations, is fed up with the Israeli procrastination that aims to prolong the occupation and enable the occupiers to gain both the land and peace.

AL-BA'TH says that Syria has spared no effort to support the peace cause. It adds: But if the security of the aggressor is regarded as a end in itself and the security of the victim of aggression is left without any specific definition, then that will mean a departure from the peace process and a serious violation of international resolutions. That will also mean an adventure responding only to the intentions of the enemies of peace and those responding to the peace efforts.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: To be fair to the cause of peace, one has to be fair to the cause of security for the victim of aggression rather than the aggressor, who is involved in continued aggression against southern Lebanon.

Under the headline "Peace Is More Important," TISHRIN says: News reports have said that advancing the peace process on the Syrian track was in the core of the talks between a number of foreign leaders with Israeli Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The common trend among those leaders, including Presidents Clinton and Chirac, was that peace in the region cannot be completed without the participation of Syria and Lebanon. Those leaders made it clear that peace in the Middle East is extremely vital for world peace, not to mention the sizable international interests in this sensitive region.

TISHRIN indicates that observers have shown a certain amount of optimism, especially after the exposure of the cards of the extremist Israeli right-wing, which seeks to undermine every peace effort, escalate tension, and exacerbate the situation in the direction of new wars. The procrastination and maneuvering that characterized the previous policy resulted in the discontinuation of the peace efforts on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the paper notes.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that all observers and politicians unanimously agree that the peace process cannot stand any further delay or procrastination, and that Israel should use the time left to achieve substantive progress on the Syrian track, followed by similar progress on the Lebanese track, especially since Syria has shown and is showing every readiness to establish the just, comprehensive, and durable peace sought by the region and the world.

Corrective Movement Jubilee Celebrations Viewed

JN0711102995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Nov 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN discusses our people's celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement [on 16 November]. The paper says: These mass celebrations are particularly important in the current circumstances since they underline the determination to continue the march to achieve the movement's national and pan-Arab objectives and to continue the march of construction, achievements, and sacrifice which gave Syria the features and characteristics of a strong, modern state under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

TISHRIN adds: The Syria of the Corrective Movement, which sticks to its honorable and pioneering positions, is reaffirming its pledge to shoulder all its pan-Arab responsibilities.

TISHRIN stresses that our people's strong bond with the historic leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad over two and half decades have strengthened national unity, which has been, and remains, the basis for all the achievements, victories, and gains made or that will be made to build modern Syria.

TISHRIN says it believes that through national unity, its leader, and its pioneering pan-Arab positions, Syria moved to the stage of national and pan-Arab awakening. Syria's experience in political pluralism and the establishment of the National Progressive Front provided a significant example in Arabs' modern history. This is because national unity has formed and continues to form the necessary and inevitable foundation for all the successes achieved under President Hafiz al-Asad.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Our masses' celebrations of the silver jubilee of the glorious Corrective Movement are considered a new motive to give sacrifices and to continue the march of construction, building, development, and adherence to the positions of right and justice under the hero of the Corrective Movement, President Hafiz al-Asad.

AL-THAWRAH discusses the comprehensive awakening in Syria's al-Asad under the victorious march that is led by President al-Asad. The paper says the achievements and gains made by Syria under the glorious Corrective Movement were appreciated and admired by the entire world. With its principles, positions, and values, Syria has become the lighthouse that guided the Arab masses to the road of dignity and pride. AL-THAWRAH notes that this was not possible to achieve without leader al-Asad's wisdom, competence, sound vision, and precise analysis of regional and international changes.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that leader al-Asad was able to determine the bases from which the Arabs should proceed to restore unity and cohesion and to build their own strength that can protect our threatened existence.

AL-THAWRAH adds: President al-Asad has repeatedly warned against the threats of fragmentation and disunity. He has always advocated solidarity, coordination, and the unity of ranks and positions.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Despite the state of discord on the Arab scene, President al-Asad continues to believe that what is happening is only a summer cloud, which will inevitably disappear so that the Arabs will one day regain the pan-Arab understanding and confirm once again that they are a one nation that does not yield or succumb, and a nation that has all the necessary elements to be able and effective.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Said Ready To 'Step Down' With Conditions

BK0711114295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov 7 (AFP) — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani announced Tuesday [7 November] that he is willing to step down, but attached a number of conditions to his eventual resignation.

"Any day a commission or an individual is ready to take over, we are ready to hand over power," the Afghan head of state said, during a two-hour speech to government leaders.

"The day when power is transferred and the burden is placed on somebody else's shoulders will be a day of celebration for me," he said.

Rabbani, whose two-year term expired in December, said several conditions would have to be satisfied before he could dissolve his nearly three-year-old administration.

"The first condition is a cessation of hostilities within the country," he said in a reference to an attempt by the Islamic Taliban militia to oust his Tajik-dominated government.

Thousands of Taleban fighters have been besieging the capital Kabul for the past month after capturing large swathes of the country in the past year.

Rabbani accused the Taleban, made up mainly of members of Afghanistan's ethnic Pashtun community, of seeking to "eliminate" the various factions which carried out the "jihad," or holy war, against the Soviet Union.

In a clear reference to Pakistan, which the government accuses of backing the Taleban, Rabbani called for an end to foreign interference in Afghanistan's affairs.

The Afghan president also said elections would have to be held within one year of his handing over power to an as yet to be named individual or interim body.

Rabbani has stated his willingness to step down previously but the country's warring factions have been unable to agree on a successor.

Rabbani, speaking just hours after a Taleban rocket attack on Kabul left [word indistinct] people dead and one wounded, called on the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to redouble their efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Afghan crisis.

He said a delegation headed by a senior government leader, Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, would pursue talks with the opposition aimed at reaching agreement on a handover of power and other issues.

"We urge the opposition to cooperate with us in arranging for a transfer of power," Rabbani said during a speech punctuated by cries of "Allah-o-Akbar," or "God is great."

Rabbani also denied Pakistani charges that the Afghan government was involved in a series of recent bombings in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

"I strongly deny these accusations," he said. "We want to improve our relations with the authorities in Pakistan."

The Taleban are opposed by the forces of Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, a former defense minister.

In March, Mas'ud's troops repulsed a previous bid by the Islamic Taleban to capture the capital.

Radio on 'Condition' of Peace

LD0711233295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The esteemed president of the country announced today that power would be transferred on condition that such a transfer of power brings about peace and ends foreign intervention.

BAKHTAR reported that esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani this morning, at a meeting attended by esteemed Professor Sayyaf, head of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], Professor Akbari, chairman of the central council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity party; pro- government Shi'a faction]; Qazi Mohammed Amin Waqad [mojahedin leader]; cabinet members; high ranking officers of the armed forces; government cadres and pro-government political parties cadres, said:

The fighting has been imposed on us from abroad to defame Islam, to defame the Islamic nation of Afghanistan's Jihad, to weaken our country's military forces that could have been the guardian of peace and stability in the region, and finally to install in Kabul a weak and a dependent government.

The president said: Foreign generals are being put at the forefront of anti-government forces. The opposition [forces] are a tool for the objectives of the aliens. The government of Pakistan, which is fanning the fighting in our country, however, is unable to restore stability in its own country. The government of Afghanistan, who wishes an improvement in the relations between the two countries' peoples, above all wants to draw the attention of the shortsighted Pakistani politicians to the consequences of their actions. The government of

Afghanistan calls on the people of Pakistan to prevent [Pakistani rulers] sacrificing good relations between the people of the two countries for their shortsighted objectives.

Assessing the past three years events, the president said:

To secure peace and stability, the government is ready to transfer power to a person or a commission acceptable to all sides [provided this transfer of power] brings about permanent peace and ends foreign intervention in the country.

In emphasizing the people's major role in determining his fate, esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani said: Every [political] process must lead to an objective where the people, in a free atmosphere, can determine their representatives and can elect the future leadership of the country.

The country's president asked the UN envoy to seriously cooperate in the acceleration of the peace process and to create an acceptable mechanism.

Referring to an accusation by Pakistan's Government and its interior minister who have said that the Afghan Government is responsible for the recent explosions in Peshawar, our esteemed president said: Such an allegation is totally incorrect. We do not want a minor harm to be inflicted on the fraternal people of Pakistan. What the imprudent rulers of Pakistan allege is the result of their failed policy vis-a-vis Afghanistan. When fighting the Soviet Union, despite the fact that one-and-a-half million Muslim sons of our country were martyred on the path of Jihad, we did not, even once, embark on terrorist action against the Soviet Union. We only fought the aggressors from trenches.

In another part of his speech, our esteemed president said: In view of a demand from the opposition [forces] I went to Islamabad for talks with them and for the restoration of peace and security in the country, hoping to end fighting through talks and by the participation of the opposition groups in government. The foreign hands, however, did not allow stability and peace to be restored in our country. I have never insisted on remaining in power. At one time I wanted to transfer power unilaterally to the chief justice. The opposition forces did not agree to this action. Mr. Mestiri also hoped that people would not be hasty in transferring power. Yet again I am ready to transfer power as soon as possible.

At this meeting Professor Sayyaf also spoke saying: The Muslim nation of Afghanistan, irrespective of race and language etc., united in the Jihad and have gained the independence of the country; they have the right to decide about the future leadership and about the transfer of power. Afghans would never be ready to accept any imposed and non-Islamic government exported from abroad.

In his talk, Professor Akbari said: For the sake of Islam and the homeland, all parties and belligerent sides must unite and find a solution for all issues through talks and by peaceful means. In assessing the past three years events, Akbari said: The prudent leadership of Professor Rabbani has prepared the ground for the restoration of peace. This issue must be kept in mind in the future.

Qazi Mohammed Amin Waqad [ex-deputy leader of the Hekmatyar group] also spoke at this meeting and has condemned fighting, under any name, against the government of Afghanistan.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that our esteemed president arrived at the Hal-wa-Aqd Hall at 1000 this morning to take part in the meeting. The president's speech was warmly welcomed with shouts of "God is great."

[Name indistinct], political adviser to Mahmud Mestiri and a large number of domestic and foreign journalists attended the grand meeting.

Minister Seeks Reassurance of Continuing UN Role

LD0611174895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Dr. Sadeq Abu Nafesah, political adviser to the UN secretary general's special envoy to Afghanistan.

BAKHTAR reports that Lafra'i expressed support for Mahmoud Mestiri's activities and said that the Afghan Government wanted the UN special envoy's efforts to continue and to be accelerated. Lafra'i also gave the necessary information about the transfer of power, negotiation with the opposition, the need for the UN participation in the peace process, and the role of the sides involved in resolving the issues. He emphasized the need for the UN role in ending foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

In response, Abu Nafesah assured Lafra'i of the UN role in ensuring a permanent peace which is acceptable to Afghans.

Government Forces Kill 9 Taleban Members

LD0611171395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by Benazir Bhutto's Taleban was foiled last night in the direction of Khurd Kabul.

BAKHTAR reports that, last night, Benazir Bhutto's Taleban carried out an attack on the defense lines of the Islamic army forces in the southeast of Kabul. The offensive was defeated by the by Mojahedin.

The Islamic Army forces killed nine members of the Taleban group during the fighting. The bodies of the Taleban are scattered in the areas under the control of Mojahedin.

In the past month, on the instructions of Benazir Bhutto, the Taleban mercenary group have resorted to several repeated offensives against the positions of the Islamic army forces and the defenses of Kabul city, which did not yield any result for them. On the contrary, heavy losses have been inflicted on the Taleban group and the combat morale of these foreign mercenaries has been extremely weakened.

Benazir Bhutto wanted her recent visit to Tehran to coincide with a military achievement in Kabul. However, Benazir's wishes have not materialized. She arrived in Tehran today empty-handed.

Taleban Fires Rockets at Kabul; One Said Killed

LD0711161695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, Benazir Bhutto's Taleban fired rockets at Kabul's residential areas again.

A security source reported to BAKHTAR that today around 1300 hours the Benazir Bhutto Taleban fired two rockets on the city's residential areas. As a result, one citizen of Kabul was killed another one was wounded.

India

Kashmiri Leader Calls For 'Autonomy' of State

BK0811045995 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The working committee of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference is meeting in Srinagar tomorrow to discuss the party's participation in elections in the light of the prime minister's statement regarding autonomy for the state. The party president and former chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, will preside over the 31-member working committee. Dr. Abdullah said that free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir are necessary to bring about peace in the state. He, however, expressed reservations about the recent Kashmir initiative saying it does not go far enough, but he said all political parties will have to work for restoration of lasting peace in the state.

[Begin Abdullah's recording] I think, I would like to have an autonomy where people will have respect, honor, so that they feel that they have achieved their goal of self-dignity. I will not put a date to it — 53 or 75 or 95. If communists, the Janata Party, the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh], the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], whoever they are [word indistinct] all of us to work together for peace, for future of our children and their children and their children so that we can get on and say that we have left a healthy and a vibrant Jammu and Kashmir. We want to live and progress with India not out of India. And, I don't want to lose the love and affection of Indian people or the people of the state. And I believe we cannot progress without India and Indian people. [end recording]

Election Commission Discusses Elections in Kashmir

BK0711140895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The election commission today held discussions with senior officials of the Home Ministry and the chiefs of paramilitary forces on the feasibility of holding free and fair polls in Jammu and Kashmir. The chief election commissioner [T.N. Seshan] and the two election commissioners were briefed by the home secretary, Mr. K. Padmanabhaiah, and other officials. The meeting lasted for two and a half hours. The law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir and other security aspects are understood to have been discussed at the meeting. Mr. T.N. Seshan and the two election commissioners are visiting the state tomorrow for an on-the-spot study of the situation.

Two senior Congress-I leaders from Jammu and Kashmir today called upon all secular and democratic parties to work unitedly to frustrate Pakistan's attempt to disrupt the proposed elections in the state. They were reacting to Pakistani foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ali's reported statement that Islamabad would support the insurgents to foil the electoral process in the state. Former Minister Mr. R.S. Chibb and PCC-I [Pradesh, State, Congress Committee-I] General Secretary Mr. M.L. Sharma said Pakistan will not be allowed to succeed in its attempts.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has demanded that the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir should be held after the law and order situation is brought under control. A resolution adopted by the party national executive meeting in Pune today demanded abrogation of Article 370 which, it said, outlived its temporary transitory purpose. Briefing newsmen, the BJP vice president, Mr. Sikander Bakht, said the other resolution adopted by the party demanded setting up of two separate regional councils for Jammu and Ladakh.

Election Commission Members Arrive in Kashmir

BK0811090195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Election Commission has started its day-long visit to Jammu and Kashmir to assess the situation for holding assembly elections there. All the three members of the commission — Mr. T.N. Seshan, Mr. M.S. Gill, and Mr. Krishnamoorthy — began their tour from Leh in the Ladakh region this morning. They held discussions with the local officers of the district administration and security forces. They also met the representatives of various political parties and listened to their views on holding of assembly elections in the state.

The Election Commission arrived in Srinagar around 1100 and held a meeting with the state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, about the possibilities and arrangements for the elections. The governor told the commission members that the situation is ripe for holding elections in all the three main regions of the state. He said militancy in the Kashmir Valley has been contained to a large extent and people are cooperating with the state administration and security forces to further normalize the situation.

The Election Commission will be holding detailed discussions with senior officers of Jammu and Kashmir Government and security forces for further appraisal of the ground situation in the state. The commission will later meet the leaders of various political parties to ascertain their views on the feasibility of the elections. The commission will conclude its visit to the state by visiting the winter capital, Jammu, where it will have more discussion with political leaders and officials.

Meanwhile, in Srinagar, the Working Committee of the National Conference has begun its meeting to discuss the party's participation in the coming elections. The meeting is presided by the party president and former chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah. Party leaders from all the three regions are participating in the meeting which may continue its deliberations for two days.

Visit Protested; Troops on Alert

BK0811072095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0657 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Nov 8 (AFP) — Troops went on maximum alert in the summer capital of Kashmir Wednesday [8 November] as Muslim rebels enforced a strike in protest at a visit by officials to study the prospects for elections in the troubled Indian state, officials said.

Residents said offices, banks and schools remained shut and traffic was off the streets across Srinagar as the Islamic Resistance Front, a forum of three Muslim rebel groups, enforced the general strike.

The Front, grouping the Al-Fateh Force, Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen and Hizbul Momineen, said the protest marked the launch of an anti- election campaign of Muslim groups who oppose Indian rule over Kashmir.

"There would be no movement. We have to show the world that no Kashmiri wants elections," the Front added in a statement.

It warned that anyone who tried to meet with the election officials would face "dire consequences."

Police said troops were placed on maximum security alert to prevent possible attempts by Muslim militants to disrupt the visit, the first to Indian-administered Kashmir in several years.

The three officials are India's tough election chief, T.N. Seshan, and his deputies M.S. Gill and G.V. G. Krishnamurthy. They were scheduled to reach the state summer capital later Wednesday.

Their autonomous panel, the Election Commission, will take a decision on the proposed polls after assessing the situation in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, which has been under direct federal rule since 1990.

Seshan held an overnight emergency session in New Delhi with the heads of Indian paramilitary agencies, but the outcome of the meeting was not revealed.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Saturday promised more autonomy to Kashmir, hours after his cabinet recommended that legislative elections be held in the state by mid-December.

Muslim separatists and the powerful All Parties' Freedom Conference grouping 30 Muslim guerrilla and political organisations have vowed to sabotage the ballot, saying only a referendum for self-determination would satisfy them.

The regional National Conference party, which formed Kashmir's last elected government after controversial polls in 1987, also began a meeting here Wednesday to decide whether it would contest the proposed polls, officials said.

The Conference wants the reversal of a 1953 accord between New Delhi and Kashmir that would grant more powers to the erstwhile Hindu kingdom.

But Conference leader Farooq Abdullah told AFP: "I have made up my mind not to participate in the elections. But the final decision has to come from the National Conference executive meeting.

India's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party) has flayed Rao for offering concessions, saying "the way to peace in Kashmir (cannot be by) offering lollipops to terrorists and their apologists."

The divided northern Himalayan region has been the cause of two wars between India and Pakistan. More than 12,000 lives have been lost since the Muslim secessionist drive was launched in 1989.

India accuses Pakistan of helping Muslim militants in Kashmir. Islamabad denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to what it describes as the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for self- determination.

Communication Center of 'Militants' Said Destroyed

BK0311100895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Srinagar, the Special Task Force of Jammu and Kashmir police have smashed a powerful communication center which has been used by the militants for communicating with Pakistan. The center located at (Nawakadal) area of Srinagar city had an aerial reach of about 200 km. An official spokesman in Srinagar said this is one of the major successes of the Special Task Force.

Minister Criticizes U.S. Move on Arms to Pakistan

BK0611130895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has asked Pakistan to immediately halt infiltrations into Indian territory. He was addressing a public meeting in Kolhapur. Mr. Chavan said it is unfortunate that, while Pakistan is openly instigating terrorists against India, the USA has agreed to sell $360 million worth of sophisticated arms and weaponry to Islamabad. Mr. Chavan appealed to all the political parties not to use the Kashmir issue for political ends.

Mukherjee Reiterates Offer To Talk With Pakistan

BK0411140195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign ministers of G-15 countries are meeting in Buenos Aires today to finalize the agenda for the summit beginning on Monday [6 November]. Speaking to newspersons in Buenos Aires yesterday, the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said the summit deliberations will lead to closer understanding of the issues and provide an opportunity for building good bilateral relations, not only with Argentina but also with the other member countries. He said the end of the Cold War era has provided an opportunity for cooperation among the developed and the developing countries.

Our special correspondent Inderjit Bahel reports from Buenos Aires that Mr. Mukherjee has reiterated India's offer to Pakistan for bilateral talks and hoped that Islamabad will respond positively. Mr. Mukherjee said India's relations with China are improving steadily and border trade has since been resumed.

Japanese Official Says Kashmir 'Bilateral' Issue

BK3110003595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Japanese prime minister, Mr. Tomiichi Murayama, has said that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and the two countries should resolve it bilaterally. Mr. Muryama was responding to Pakistan Senate Chairman Mr. Wasim Sajjad's call for Tokyo's cooperation in solving the issue.

Russia Agrees To Settle Claims on Past Exports

BK0711095895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia has agreed to settle by early next year all pending Indian claims on account of exports made during the transition period in that country. The settlement will be done after verifying documents available with the importers. The agreement was reached during the delegation-level talks between the two countries in Moscow. Payments will be made immediately by the Reserve Bank in cases where exporters received instructions from the Bank of Foreign Economic Affairs from the erstwhile USSR. There are more than 900 claims of exporters lodged with the government and most of these had remained unsettled till last month. The talks marked a definite step forward in solving the complex problem, which is the legacy of the erstwhile rupee trade arrangement.

Radio Views Rao's Visit to West African Countries

BK0411085895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Nov 95

[Commentary by Ashok Sen Gupta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Only a few hours back the special plane carrying the prime minister and a high-powered Indian delegation landed in Burkina Faso, a West African country on the frontiers of the great Sahara desert. Mr. Narasimha Rao's three nation tour will take him next week to another West African country, Ghana, on the Atlantic coast. Although the presidents of these two countries visited India more than once in the past, this is the first visit of an Indian prime minister to these two countries as well as the first bilateral visit to this part of the world.

The visit signifies a new thrust in India's policy toward Africa. Right from the time of India's independence, our Africa policy was based on the twin pillars of support to the struggle for independence from colonial rule and removal of apartheid. Independence of Namibia and the emergence of a multiracial South Africa denotes successful culmination of that policy. Our new perspective today must necessarily be economic and developmental, especially because both India and most African countries are passing through a process of economic liberalization. For historical reasons, people of Indian origin are settled more in the countries of eastern and southern Africa. Western Africa, particularly the former French colonies there, remained virgin territories for India.

The visit of the prime minister to this region indicates our new thrust to build strong relations with these countries. But, this is not a one-sided effort. In fact, the prime minister's visit comes in the wake of visits of heads of state of four Francophile countries — Togo, Senegal, Mali, and Burkina Faso to India in the recent past. Burkina Faso has been giving strong support to India on political issues in the United Nations and other international fora. In the post Cold War scenario, strong links between India and these countries are very much of mutual interest to both sides. In building links with the region, India has come to them not as a donor but as a partner in progress. India is sharing with them its technology which is appropriate as well as adaptable in their stage of development. Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit is expected to put the seal on a strategy for development diplomacy that has paid rich dividends to both countries.

Iran

Khamene'i Predicts U.S. 'Anti-Zionist Revolution'

LD0811120895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In an address this morning to a gathering of top commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and Imam Husayn Military Academy cadets, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander in chief, said it is important for the academy to concentrate on military, scientific, and spiritual issues. [passage omitted]

Stressing the importance of discipline in the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the commander in chief said that in the face of Arrogance's organized moves against the holy Islamic system our Armed Forces should be a model of order and discipline. Order in behavior and deeds will result in order on the battlefield and taking a stand globally against arrogance. That is an important principle in the military organization of the IRGC.

He said the all-round stance of world arrogance against Islamic Iran is a stance against God. He added: A well-known terrorist, whose record of suppression and cruel and unjust behavior toward the Palestinian people is clear to all the world, has been killed, and the leaders of the arrogant front gathered in occupied Palestine to shed crocodile tears and mourn his loss.

The esteemed leader praised Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi as a martyr in the struggle for human values. He said: A soldier who fights to reclaim his home from occupiers is admired by everybody in the world. On that basis the unknown soldier is honored as role-models. [passage omitted] But the leaders of global policies not only did not care about the martyrdom of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, but shed tears for his murderer who had a long record as a terrorist.

He described the U.S. leaders as poor and weak individuals who lack human values. Predicting an anti-Zionist revolution in the United States, he said: If a revolution were envisaged in the future of the United States, that revolution would entail U.S. Zionists, who control every section of that country, being torn limb from limb. The foundation of the U.S. regime is based on evil. Therefore, it will not last and will be destroyed.

Stressing that the Muslim nation of Iran should resist arrogant powers he said: Today, thanks to God's blessings, the Islamic Republic of Iran, bravely and without any hesitation or fear, stands for and will continue to stand for bringing truth out into the open and exposing evil. So long as the arrogant front bases its movement on evil it will not accept the word of God; and God's front will not tolerate and put up with that move of arrogance. The Iranian nation and the Islamic system does not seek war at all, but in defense it would strike any aggressor hard. [passage omitted]

Velayati Comments on Nuclear Policy, Iraq

NC0711172595 Nicosia CyBC Television Network in English 0730 GMT 5 Nov 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Chief Editor Pedro Gonzalez; place and date not given; from the "Euronews" program; monitored in progress —-recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Velayati] ...these parallels will continue. But, if we want to live together, we have to tolerate each other. This is the way of life that we have chosen and that is the way of life that you have chosen. We don't want to impose the school of thought, our school of thought, on you and vice versa.

[Gonzalez] But I think that to live together is important, to know each other better. (?For instance) I think that recently the Iranian parliament has forbidden the TV dishes. For us it's really a pity, because Euronews programs won't be watched there. Many people in the West consider that gesture as a backwards step. But only if we admit that we are in the telecommunications age.

[Velayati] Yes. If you agree, we can have a reciprocity in this connection. You can broadcast our radio and television [programs] and we can do the same. I don't think that in some, at least some European countries can tolerate such a deal. If you, we, want to live together, friendly and peacefully, that should be bilaterally and mutually. There is no unilateral understanding. We should have mutual understanding. If this is so, we have to reciprocate. If you are going to broadcast what we are saying in all countries, we also are going to do the same. Are you ready?

[Gonzalez] We are going to have to come to some agreement, of course.

[Velayati] Oh, yes. Okay.

[Gonzalez] Well, we are going to change the subject. Since more than a year ago, you called on nuclear powers to allow the transfer of technology and material for peaceful nuclear purposes without discrimination. But at least the United States believes that Tehran has begun a crash program to develop a nuclear arsenal. Maybe that is one of the causes there why America keeps the embargo against Iran. You don't think so?

[Velayati] Yes. You are facing some claims by some countries against some other countries. If we want to reach a real judgement, we have to ask the international organization which is related to such issues. In this connection, there is a legal and legitimate organization, the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency]. If we want to see, that if we want to judge that Iran is doing what it claims, we have to ask this organization to come and see if we observe the international laws or not.

We have repeatedly invited the secretary general of this organization and he came to Iran several times, and also he has sent some special envoys to inspect what we are doing there. And always they have reiterated that Iran complies with international laws. I think that is enough for the international community.

[Gonzalez] Are you going to give the Iraqis' warplanes back to Baghdad?

[Velayati] That is against the resolution which was adopted in the Security Council. We announced at the beginning that there are 22 planes, Iraqi planes, there. And they are there if the Security Council lifts sanctions against Iraq and if they ask us to send back the planes, certainly we will do that.

[Gonzalez] Do you think that Iraq would keep its territorial integrity whilst President Saddam Husayn continues in power and what would happen if Saddam Husayn is removed?

[Velayati] In any case, it is our hope that the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iraq will remain intact. We are against any kind of partition and disintegration of Iraq. This is not to the benefit of the people of Iraq. This is not to the benefit of the security in our region. So regardless of who is running Iraq, we are against any kind of partition of Iraq.

[Gonzalez] Seeing the past from now, the Iran-Iraq war could be a big mistake from both sides. Do you think that the enormous cost of such a war has been finally balanced in any way?

[Velayati] We also agree that not only that was a mistake, that was a disaster. We hadn't started the war. The war was imposed on us by Iraq. That was, as you know, was confirmed by the former secretary general of the United Nations in an official statement. Because he was, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the former secretary general of the United Nations, in according to Resolution 598. [sentence as heard] He was asked to search, to investigate, about the war and the country which started the war. After a long period of investigation, he officially announced and reported to the Security Council that Iraq was [the] aggressor. So that was not our failure; that was not our guilt. Only the thing that we can say is that that war was started by Iraq like what they did against Kuwait. But in spite of that, what we believe is that Iran and Iraq as two neighboring countries should live together peacefully, because we have a common border—a long common border, 1,200 kms.

This is our destiny, that we should live together peacefully. This is not our job to talk about the government of Iraq. This is not our business. The people of Iraq should decide about their own government. But as I said, that regardless [of] who is running Iraq, we want to live with Iraq, peacefully and with coexistence.

[Gonzalez] But by the way, in that war the monarchies of the Persian Gulf helped Saddam Husayn against you, for they thought you were on the edge of invading them. Afterwards, those monarchies called the international community to stop Iraq. In both cases, it seems that your neighbors have fear from you, haven't they?

[Velayati] It is up to them, but what we have done is not against them. We want to live together; we want to cooperate together on the basis of the eighth paragraph of Resolution 598, which is related to the Iran-Iraq war. These eight countries around the Persian Gulf should cooperate together; and since the very beginning, after the revolution, always we have reiterated that we want to cooperate with our neighboring countries, including the littoral states of the Persian Gulf.

[Gonzalez] Most of Western public opinion believes that Iran is behind many of terrorist acts and that all over the world, especially against Israeli, American, and French targets. Did you realize that people are very sensitive about these kinds of acts?

[Velayati] I think after a long period, many countries have reached this point that Iran doesn't support terrorism. But on the contrary, Iran is against terrorism in any form. We are the victim of terrorism. Many of our high-ranking officials were assassinated by terrorists. How can we support terrorism? Now only few countries like the United States and Israel are trying to make these ideas in the international opinion, international community, they try to make this negative atmosphere against Iran, because of the political purposes.

They say that Iran is supporting terrorism, but that is not true. We categorically deny, as I said; we are victims of the terrorism. We are against any kind of terrorism. They haven't shown any document that Iran is behind any kind of terrorism.

[Gonzalez] Mr. Minister, our time is almost over but I will finish with a question. Not a long time ago, Iran was seen as the nice country of some outstanding Muslim legends. For Western children, Iran was synonymous [with] something wonderful. We are now far away from that idyllic vision. What do you think about [it]?

[Velayati] I think Iran is Iran. Iran is a big country with a long civilization, with an old civilization; and if now you come to Iran and anybody who loves Iran, you will find out that Iran is the same. Not [that] the situation is the same, but much better than before. And the potentials of Iran or that attraction that you have mentioned still are there, because these potentials cannot be changed.

[Gonzalez] It is not a closed country any more?

[Velayati] Certainly it is not a closed country any more and the doors are open to anybody who wishes to come and see our country, our beautiful country with a long history of civilization.

[Gonzalez] Thank you very much, Mr. Minister, to be with us in our weekly appointment in Euronews.

And for you, ladies and gentlemen, thank you to you until the next week.

'Roundtable' Discussion on Foreign Policy Reported

*NC0811132495 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
29 Oct 95 p 2*

[From the Newsdesk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, the Tehran deputy in the Islamic Majles, and Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami participated in the monthly session of the Islamic Engineers Association and propounded their views regarding Iranian foreign policy trends.

This roundtable session on the eve of 4 November, on "Yawm Allah" [the Day of God] (the national day of the struggle against world arrogance), was held at the Hojjat Ibnul Hasan 'Askari (peace be upon him) mosque. First, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami assessed foreign policy on the bases of the three axes of the fundamental policies, the major policies, and the minor policies and said: The enemy's policy with regard to Muslims, especially the pure Islam of Muhammad (peace be upon him), is to battle against the Muslims as far as possible so that the Muslims relinquish their religion.

He added: The enemy will only abandon its scheming if it fears the Muslims and if the Muslims are prepared to combat it.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami stated that his eminence the imam compiled the axes of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy on the basis of Islamic texts and said: His eminence, the late imam, delineated the axes of the foreign policy of the Islamic Revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the practical implementation of Islamic jurisprudence. These axes, which eschew the kind of diplomacy prevalent in the world today, consist of negating domination over mankind, complete independence and the severance of all dependence, the export of the Islamic Revolution, the world-encompassing nature of Islam, the elimination of Israel, the irreconcilable struggle against the United States, and practical support for the oppressed and deprived.

In his remarks to the roundtable Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani recalled that the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and the emergence of the Islamic movement worldwide were the two important outcomes of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. He added: Since Islamic movements have a close relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and every success scored by these movements is entered into the Iranian ledger, our foreign policy has been formulated on the basis of these realities.

He continued: The decisions of those who formulate Iranian policy fall into three categories: advancing Islam, safeguarding the Islamic Revolution, and securing the prosperity and development of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These three are part of our government's obligations.

Commenting on the safeguarding of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system taking priority over everything else, Dr. Larijani stated: Priorities crop up in foreign policy that should be identified and acted upon accordingly. He stressed the development and prosperity of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: Development and prosperity are not the same as comfort-seeking but they are our lawful obligation. If Iran were not strong, prosperous, and independent, the enemies lying in wait would dominate us.

The head of the Islamic Majles research committee recalled that the campaign against infidels and the enemies of Islam is the most important index of our system. But this does not necessarily entail a declaration of war against other countries. We should never underestimate the enemy, especially as we are today witnessing U.S. expansionism and world domination, which is why it is hostile toward us. I believe that as a full-fledged creed based on collective and individual conduct, Islam gives us the opportunity to fulfill our religious obligations, protect our country against enemies in the best possible way, and achieve our objectives. This is a goal we can attain.

Asked about Iran's relations with other countries, Hojjat ol- Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami said: I do not believe in severing relations with countries. I believe there are various aspects to relations with other countries; they can be fraternal, friendly, reciprocal, or hostile, so the priorities in forging such relations differ.

He said: My contention is that if there is a conflict between the system and the revolution, which one of these should be given priority. I would think that safeguarding the revolution should take precedence.

He added: There are individuals who believe that safeguarding the system is a top priority for which we should relinquish our principles and values if need be. I do not concur. I believe that we have set up an Islamic government for the sake of Islam and this should be safeguarded for the sake of the revolution.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami stated: Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, we have had so far five periods in our foreign policy, two of which were in the eras of Bazargan and Banisadr when despite the revolutionary fervor in our society, their governments were leaning excessively toward the West and the United States. The third period in our foreign policy was during Martyr Raja'i's term when the executive trend was swiftly geared to the pure policies of the imam and the revolution.

He recalled: During the term of prime minister Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the pristine policies of the imam and the revolution were reinforced and the powers of world arrogance became pessimistic with regard to the Islamic Republic of Iran. This was to the extent that Western politicians and mass media stated that as long as the imam is alive we cannot do anything about Iran as its system has a firm foreign policy.

Mohtashami said: During the tenure of President Hashemi- Rafsanjani, his criterion is that we can keep the world occupied with our policies and at the same time safeguard our national interests. Unfortunately, certain currents emerged in our foreign policy which resulted in flexibility, reconciliation, and closeness toward the Western world and the United States as far as possible.

He added: In this era, our foreign policy is based on "cordial relations at whatever cost" even though this is not what we want. Regarding the issue of Salman Rushdie, 500,000 persons demonstrated in favor of the late imam's decree in Britain, while president Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that the Imam's fatwa [religious ruling] is an expert's opinion. In my view, this is a dangerous remark as his eminence the imam (may God be pleased with him) had issued a decree against Salman Rushdie and a decree is different from a fatwa.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami recalled: Following the issuing of the imam's decree, the British parliament protested to its government as to why it was endangering British interests for a person of Indian origin. However, the British prime minister officially announced that even if our country's interests are threatened we will support Rushdie as a defense of freedom of expression. Thus it is obvious that principles and ideals have a special position even among the materialists of the world, so we should certainly not relinquish our ideals.

After propounding his remarks, Mohtashami departed from the premises as he had another engagement of which he had duly apprised the sponsors of the roundtable gathering earlier.

At this roundtable Engineer Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, who was in charge of convening this session, referred to Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Mohtashami's remarks and said: It appears that currently the U.S.' attitude toward the Islamic Republic of Iran is more hostile than ever before. During the term of Engineer Musavi, American companies bought oil from us but today the United States has boycotted oil purchases from Iran.

He added: The pressure currently being exerted by the United States is far greater than it was in the past. Mohtashami believes there is a difference between the system and the revolution. However, if the system is not safeguarded, how can the revolution be protected? The late imam had also stressed the safeguarding of the system as the top most priority.

He continued: The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was directed by the late imam during his lifetime. Even now, the great leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran guides the country's foreign policy on the basis of the principles of honor, sagacity, and expediency.

At this roundtable session, Dr. Larijani responded to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami's remarks and said: Mohtashami compared various eras, but this comparison does not have well-defined limits. During President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's term, the intensified animosity on the part of the United States has not budged an inch with regard to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Even the World Bank has refrained from helping the Iranian economy. But during Engineer Musavi's term Reagan had adopted a policy of closeness to Iran, as the side which won the war.

Referring to the issue of safeguarding the system, Larijani said: If we were to adopt the economic policies of Musavi's term we would be dependent solely on our oil income, which is quite perishable. He asserted: Today, our greatest obligation is to present an efficient government to the world based on wisdom and thought and this would be the greatest propagation of Islam.

He added: If we wish to see Islam revived in the world, the Islamic Republic of Iran should be transformed into a prosperous and progressive country.

Dr. Larijani also commented that the terms "fatwa" and "decree" were not very different and said: In popular terminology, decree denotes supremacy. However, when a jurisconsult issues a lawful jurisprudential decree it is not based on supremacy as what he issues is a divine ordinance.

He continued: Our advice to the people of the world is that a jurisprudential decree is not based on supremacy as that would entail exerting power.

Larijani recalled: The United States, Britain, and the Zionists project the decree by his eminence the late imam—which is a source of pride for Muslims and the revival of Islam in the world—as a pretext for carrying on propaganda against us which we should neutralize.

He stated: His eminence the imam did not say that we should not defend the prestige of the system. The adoption of stances and the issuing of a decree are indications of the late imam's genius. With this decree, the imam resuscitated the prestige of Islam among Muslims.

Dr. Larijani said: The issue is that in a calculated plan a campaign has been initiated against the sanctities of Muslims and we should protect the honor of the system. The Islamic Republic of Iran's system is that his eminence the imam's decree remains in force.

Pakistan's Bhutto Continues Official Visit

Daily Reports on 'Formal Talks'

BK0711113095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 7 Nov 95 p 1, 15

[APP report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — Formal talks between Pakistan and Iran were held here on Monday [6 November] afternoon, during which bilateral and regional matters including Kashmir and Afghanistan, as well as enhancing bilateral economic cooperation came up under discussion.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto led the Pakistan side, while President Hashemi-Rafsanjani led the Iranian side, at the formal talks.

Federal Ministers Ghulam Mustafa Khar and Makhdum Shahabuddin; Special Assistant to the PM Shahid Hassan Khan and other senior members of the delegations assisted the Prime Minister in the talks.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati also participated in the parleys.

"The two sides discussed matters relating to bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues", sources said.

The two leaders, the sources said exchanged views on Kashmir and Afghanistan.

"The matter of continued aggression against Azerbaijan also came under consideration".

The two leaders expressed their confidence that high level talks will boost bilateral relations and economic cooperation between the two states.

Earlier, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, arrived here on Monday on a three-day official visit to review bilateral relations as well as current regional and international developments. She was welcomed at Mehrabad airport by President Akbar Hashami-Rafsanjani and a number of senior Iranian officials.

Upon her arrival, Prime Minister Bhutto went to the mausoleum of the late Imam Khomeyni and paid tributes to the founder of the Islamic revolution.

Mutual cooperation, current international developments and problems of the world of Islam will be among major topic to be discussed by Benazir Bhutto and President Rafsanjani.

She will also discuss bilateral Parliamentary relations with Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

She is due to leave Tehran for Mashhad on Tuesday to pay a pilgrimage to the holy Shrine of Imam Reza (AS). Four agreements in different field of economy, joint venture, Radio and Television and chambers of commerce are expected to be signed by the two countries during Prime Minister's stay here.

Benazir Bhutto said there is need for Pakistan and Iran to work together to address regional issues of mutual concern.

In a statement on her arrival here, she said she was expecting to have a comprehensive exchange of views with the Iranian leaders on the situation in Kashmir, Afghanistan, Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Middle East and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

She said "we would discuss ways in which we can make a positive contribution to the resolution of these issues.

In her statement, she further said "I am delighted to be in fraternal Iran once again. I have visited this brotherly country on a number of occasions before and have always taken back fond memories.

I am confident that, as in the past, my current visit will help consolidate further our extremely cordial relations and provide a fresh impetus to the our economic and commercial ties.

During my stay in Tehran, I would be meeting with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution His Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Speaker of the Majles 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

In these meetings, we would be covering the entire gamut of Pakistan Iran bilateral relations. We would review, in particular, the progress made in promoting trade and economic cooperation. We shall discuss specifically the establishment of Pakistan Iran oil refinery, the gas pipeline project, and proposals for enhancing industrial collaboration, etc.

The Cold War has ended and the threat of global conflict has receded. The promise of world-wide peace has yet to be realised in our region and elsewhere. We see ethnic cleansing, denial of the right of self-determination and fratricidal conflict tearing apart the fabric of the society."

On arrival, the Prime Minister told reporters that the Kashmir issue and the Afghan situation would dominate her talks with Iranian leaders.

"Important problems exist concerning peace and security in the region, the most important of which are the problems of Kashmir and Afghanistan", she said, adding that bilateral political and economic issues would be discussed.

President Rafsanjani said, there were no problems in bilateral relations between the two countries, but that regional problems had to be discussed.

President Rafsanjani said, there were no problems in bilateral relations between the two countries, but that regional problems had to be addressed.

"Iran and Pakistan could contribute to settle the problems and crisis in the region", he said.

"We hope Ms. Bhutto's visit would help to solve the problems", President Rafsanjani added.

Soon after here arrival, the Prime Minister's motorcade left for Saadabad, where Ms Benazir Bhutto will be staying during her official visit.

On November 7 the Prime Minister will address the Islamic Consultative Republic Assembly (ICA), followed by a scheduled meeting with Speaker Nateq-Nuri.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to hold a meeting with the Chief Editors of the leading Iranian dailies.

On November 8, ceremony for signing of agreements is to be held followed by which, the Prime Minister will leave Tehran for Islamabad, at the end of her three-day official visit. Meanwhile, Prime Minister in a statement before her departure for Tehran dispelled the impression that Pakistan and Iran have different objectives in Afghanistan.

She said "we have remained in close touch and have continuously consulted each other regarding the evolving situation there".

As part of this consultation process the Prime Minister pointed out that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister has visited Islamabad twice and our foreign Minister went to Tehran in September 1995.

She said she herself met Foreign Minister Velayati during the recent NAM [Nonaligned Movement] Summit Conference in Cartegna. Both Iran and Pakistan desire peace and stability in Afghanistan, she added.

The Prime Minister said the two countries, have been most deeply affected by the Afghan crisis. "We both are, therefore, determined to see an early end to the fratricidal war in Afghanistan and the return to their homes of millions of Afghan refugees who have found shelter with us".

She said "we both support the efforts of the UN and the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] for peace and conciliation in Afghanistan. We both are also opposed to any foreign intervention. We expect various Afghan leaders to talk to one another and agree on a power-sharing formula acceptable to all".

Besides Kashmir and Afghanistan Benizir Bhutto said during her visit to Iran, we would exchange views on the recent developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Central Asia and the Caucasus, and the Middle East.

She said she would looking forward to her discussions with the Iranian leadership.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who left for three-day official visit to Iran was seen off at the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] base Chaklala by senior government officials.

Soon after her arrival, the Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto went to Behsht-e-Zehra the mausoleum of Imam Khomeyni.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Mr Asif Ali Zardari and members of Iranian Majles.

National anthems of both countries were played on the occasion. The Prime Minister laid a floral wreath and offered 'fateha' at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeyni.

Imam Khomeyni is the founder of Islamic revolution. He enforced Islamic system in Iran after ousting Raza Shah's government from the country. During the reign of Raza Shah, Imam Khomeyni had been exiled from country but he organised Iranian people in this period and at last he brought Islamic revolution in Iran in February 1989.

Bhutto: 'Positive Results' From Visit

LD0711195795 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who is currently in Tehran, was interviewed by Iranian journalists this evening. Pointing to the good relations between Iran and Pakistan, she spoke about the outcome of her visit to Iran. She said: This visit has had positive results. We reached fruitful agreements on economic matters.

She added: Based on these agreements, work on the gas pipeline [from Iran] to Pakistan will start in 1996. Pakistan will also buy 1,000 pieces of heavy machinery from Iran.

Concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan's support for certain groups in Afghanistan, she stressed: We do not support any group against any other group in Afghanistan. We believe that the Afghan people themselves should decide their fate. This is the right of the Afghan people.

On the return of [former Afghan King] Zaher Shah to Afghanistan, she said: The Afghan people are the ones who should come to a decision on this matter.

On her talks with the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Pakistani prime minister said: We discussed Kashmir, the expansion and improvement of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and the problem of Afghanistan.

Bhutto Leaves After Visit

LD0811090595 Tehran IRNA in English 0851 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto wound up her three-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran and left here Wednesday [8 November] morning.

She was seen off at the airport by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Five letters of understanding in different fields of the economy, transportation, joint investment and women sports were signed by Iranian and Pakistani officials during Bhutto's stay in the country.

Bilateral relations as well as major international and regional developments were among the topics discussed by the Pakistani premier and President Rafsanjani.

She also addressed the Islamic consultative assembly (Majles) on Tuesday, outlining her country's viewpoints on different issues.

During her short visit to Mashhad, in northeastern Khorasan Province, she made a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth imam of the Household of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

She was accompanied by a high-ranking economic and political delegation including the ministers of foreign affairs and power, the state minister for economic affairs as well as a number of parliamentary representatives.

Prior to her departure, the Pakistani premier met with Majles speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Tuesday.

Terming Bhutto's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran as fruitful, Nateq-Nuri underscored the need for further exchange of visits between the two countries' officials.

The Majles speaker and Bhutto further called on Iranian and Pakistani executive officials to accelerate implementation of the economic agreements reached by the neighboring states.

The Pakistani premier and her accompanying delegation arrived here Monday.

Nateq-Nuri Holds Talks With Irish Officials

LD0211222195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
2030 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles ['Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri] who is visiting Ireland met and conferred with that country's president and prime minister on Thursday [2 November]. Here is a Central News Unit correspondent with a report on that:

[Correspondent] On the second day of his visit to Dublin, the capital of Ireland, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles Mr. Nateq-Nuri met and conferred with Irish President Mary Robinson at the presidential office.

During the meeting, the Irish president expressed satisfaction about the expansion of relations between the two countries, particularly in cultural fields. Referring to moral and cultural values of the Iranian society, she stressed that preservation of such values by Iran and Ireland will be most effective in strengthening bilateral relations. Mrs Robinson also called for the expansion of parliamentary ties between the two countries. [passage omitted]

In a separate meeting with Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, Nateq-Nuri stressed the need to strengthen relations and create a balance in trade exchanges between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Political developments in Europe and the Balkans were among other issues discussed by the two countries' high-ranking officials. Our country's head of legislature referred to crimes committed by the Serbs against the oppressed nation of Bosnia, regretted the negligence of Western governments toward such crimes, and stressed the need for comprehensive efforts to stop the Serb crimes in Bosnia. [passage omitted]

Speaker Comments on 3-Nation Tour

LD0511093795 Tehran IRNA in English
0641 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA — Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri returned home Saturday [4 November] night from his three-nation tour of Austria, Ireland and Qatar.

Upon his arrival at Mehrabad Airport, he told reporters that the outcome of his seven-day visit was very successful.

He stressed that since Austria and Ireland are two member states of the European Union, the Islamic Republic of Iran may have relations with other members of the union through these two countries.

Accompanying the Majles speaker were the Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs Hoseyn Kamali, of Energy Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh, of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, of Commerce Yahya ol-Eshaq and of Road and Transportation Akbar Torkan who reached agreements with their counterparts.

Prior to his departure from Doha, Nateq-Nuri participated in a press conference in which he voiced Iran's readiness to promote friendly relations with all countries particualtly the littoral states of the Persian Gulf.

He reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the Persian Gulf littoral states as members of a large family and believes that the regional security will be only established by the regional states themslelves.

Commenting on the embargo imposed on Iraq, he stated that Iran opposes to the sanction which is in fact imposed on the oppressed Iraqi people.

On relations with Iraq, he said that major issues including prisoners of war, border lines and pilgrimage of holy places have been discussed by the Iranian and Iraqi officials.

President Rafsanjani Attends German Media Seminar

LD0711124295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting today with the participants in a joint Iran-German media seminar in

Tehran, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani answered questions from media representatives. According to the Central News Unit's correspondent, at the meeting, the president explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's official views and stances in connection with developments relating to relations between Iran and the West, the question of terrorism, and domestic issues such as the forthcoming Majles elections [in March 1996].

Referring to the extensive efforts made by global arrogance, headed by the United States, to present a distorted image of the Islamic Republic of Iran to international public opinion, the president said: The United States and Zionism have used their propaganda machinery with the aim of hiding the truth about Iran and making unjust accusations against us. The press and the media in Europe, including Germany, are influenced by these propaganda maneuvers.

With regards to the future of ties between Iran and the United States, the president said: In view of the long-standing hostility and enmity of the United States against the Muslim nation of Iran, our people consider the United States to be an accomplice of the former regime and the creator of the problems and difficulties experienced after the victory of the Islamic revolution. As long as the U.S. Administration does not amend its behavior toward the people of Iran and [as long as] it does not release the billions of dollars of Iran's frozen assets, the normalization of ties between Iran and the United States is impossible.

The president condemned the accusations made by the U.S. Administration and the West suggesting that Iran intends to obtain atomic weapons, and said that this accusation is a lie. He added: We should ask the Germans this question, why is it that you took $3 billion from Iran 20 years ago for building the Bushehr nuclear power station, then left the work incomplete, causing great losses to Iran? Also, why is it that when, today, Russia has taken the place of Germany to complete this power station, you raise such a commotion, whereas many countries have nuclear power stations and produce atomic energy and also carry out atomic activities?

The president added: All of Iran's atomic cooperation [activities] are carried out under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency and they have repeatedly stressed that Iran has no program for obtaining nuclear weapons.

The president referred to the growing trend of cooperation between Iran and Russia and said: The foundation for our friendship and cooperation with Russia was laid before the collapse of the former Soviet Union and it has continued to grow. In view of our shared concerns and viewpoints about the Caspian Sea, good progress has been made [in Iran-Russia ties].

In response to a question about the effects of the death of the prime minister of the al-Quds [Jerusalem] occupying regime on the Middle East peace process, the president said: I do not think that there will be any major changes as a result of a change in leadership. Of course, it will have a psychological impact.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: As long as the wronged nation of Palestine has not attained its legitimate and legal rights and as long as Palestinian refugees have not returned to their homes and livelihoods, the prospects are not good.

With respect to the West's accusations about Iran's support for terrorism, Hashemi-Rafanjani said: If the representatives of neutral Western media visit Iran's graveyards, they will admit that Iran is the country that has been the greatest victim of terrorism.

The president added: The innocent martyrdom of the Islamic Republic of Iran's senior officials, assassinations, the loss of limbs by many officials [as a result of bomb attacks], including an attempt on the life of the eminent leader [Khamene'i], which led to his hand being injured, attacks against myself, the martyrdom and injury of many Friday prayer leaders and other strata of the people, are some of the crimes that have been committed by the terrorist hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], and, today, they operate freely in the West, including in Germany, and they are supported, but no judicial authority or supporter of human rights thinks of putting them on trial.

The president referred to the assassination of martyr al-Shaqaqi by the Zionists and said: Documents have been published in Germany revealing that Yitzhaq Rabin was involved in the order to assassinate the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement but no one condemned them [the Israelis].

The president explained: I am certain that, one day, all the people who carry out propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran will feel ashamed, and we have consistantly and decisively condemned terrorism and have deemed it to be a bad way of imposing one's views.

With respect to the edict [hokm] about Salman Rushdie's apostasy, the president said: This is a deeply rooted religious viewpoint and fatwa, which has existed for a very long time in the books and views of Shi'ah and Sunni religious jurisprudents and is not a new point [about apostasy]. In our opinion, Western specialists and thinkers should clarify this issue for their own people.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also expressed support for the holding of free Majles elections and said: I, personally, believe in the soundness of public opinion and the correctness of the people's decisions about things and I am certain that, in completely free and fair elections, nothing will emerge from the ballot boxes other than for the good and interest of the country. The government supports the freedom of the elections, the participation of all the people, and their extensive and serious presence at the polling stations.

With regards to Iran's stances on Afghanistan's problems, the president said: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the problem of Afghanistan will not be solved through fighting and bloodshed and the only solution is through talks and political efforts and this important point was approved in the ECO summit held in Islamabad.

Answers Questions From German Media

LD0711223095 Tehran IRNA in English
1340 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 7 (IRNA) — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here on Tuesday [7 November] the regular meeting between Iranian and German journalists is a good initiative to enlighten the world public opinion.

Speaking at a press conference attended by Iranian and German journalists, President Rafsanjani said that discovery of realities, however bitter they may be, by the mass media would be helpful in enlightening people.

The second meeting between Iranian and German journalists opened in Tehran on Sunday. The first meeting took place in Bonn last year.

Asked by a German journalist why the real face of Iran was not displayed in the Western press including that of Germany, the president said it was due to the fact that Western mass media were under the influence of the U.S. and the Zionists.

The president said, "while in Iran, you will visit different places and see for yourselves the realities."

Asked about his economic views, the president said he advocates the Islamic economy which is not linked either to communism or capitalism.

He said the sensitivity of the Westerners to the author of the Satanic Verses, Salman Rushdie had no justifications.

The president reiterated that the fatwa issued against Salman Rushdie was not something. [sentence as received] "Sunni and Shiite ulma said even a thousands years ago that anybody insulting the prophet should be sentenced to death."

On Afghanistan, President Rafsanjani said, "Iran believes that the Afghan problem will not be resolved through fighting."

Asked about terrorism, the president replied that Iran has been a victim of terrorism more than any other country.

On the forthcoming parliamentary elections, he said he was sure the elections held quite freely will benefit the Iranian people.

(On Benazir Bhutto's visit to Tehran): "We had extensive discussions with Mrs. Bhutto in relation to Afghanistan. Our position in relation to Afghanistan is one of eschewing from war as a solution to the problem in Afghanistan.

This problem can be resolved only by dialog and diplomatic action. such was also the position of all members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Islamabad.

I think any group in Afghanistan who should seek to fight out a solution in that country will have done something against the recommendation of ECO member states. I think we can cooperate with the Pakistanis on that same principle. We are still continuing our talks [with Bhutto]."

(On the internal economic situation and economic reforms): "As for the economic system I advocate the doctrine recommended by Islam. I have previously in Friday congregational prayers as well as in my interviews expounded the same doctrine.

The Islamic economy is neither a communist economy nor a capitalist economy. Perhaps it should properly be described as a mixed economy. But do not look here for the same capitalist and liberal economy that you have in your country (Germany).

In the Islamic economy the government has a more tangible presence and leadership than there is in capitalism. Our recent decision to restrict foreign currencies is based on how we look at our economic system."

(On relations between Iran and Germany):" we have always had positive records of cooperation with the Germans and the outlook for the future looks to be the same. Except that I think negative propaganda is being published against us among the Germans which has pushed the Germans to some sort of (unwarranted) conservatism. The public opinion in Iran is in favor of the Germans. Recently the Germans opened new credits and we have taken new strides towards further developing our relations.

(On Iran's nuclear power plant being built at the Persian Gulf): "As the Germans started the project for the first time many years ago, did they believe they were erecting it to manufacture atomic bombs?

Many world countries have nuclear power plant without having atomic bomb. I think you Germans should try to offer the answer to your own question.

Initially, you collected upwards of $3 billion from us and you involved us with a colossal building that you left incomplete. What do you think is the equivalent now of the $3 billion that you collected from us 20 years ago? In addition, during the past 20 years we had expended a great deal of money simply to maintain the incomplete structures.

Our work in the area of nuclear power is completely monitored by the IAEA. They know fully well that Iran is not out for atomic weapons."

(On the attitudes of the Westerners towards the Islamic revolution): "Basically and lifestyle-wise, revolutions, whatsoever, do not appeal to the Westerners. They prefer the status quo.

In the past Iran was some sort of secret closet to the Westerners and especially to the United States and Britain in which they had a lot of unjustified interests. additionally, there are contrasts between the Islamic culture and the Western civilization... My opinion is that those contrasts are in the main manageable.

I think if there be logical cooperation between Iran and the Western countries that will convince than that it is better. The legitimate and correct interests of both sides can replace relations based on the satisfaction of the illegitimate interests of only one party.

(On the relations between Iran and the West and international terrorism): "For one thing, you would do well if you visited our cemeteries wherein our martyrs are buried so that you would find out for yourself how many martyrs who were terrorized now lie there.

For example, the same terrorists who blasted a building in Tehran [in 1979] and martyred 72 of our public officials now have their own special offices in Germany, this is something that you should tell the Germans. And the same terrorists are now launching a political propaganda campaign [against Iran] in Germany... For the terrorist acts of our opponents we have lost many personalities. Those terrorists martyred our people while they were at their Friday congregational prayers. We have lost so many personalities as the result of the acts of terrorists. The ones lost have ranged from the president, prime minister, chief justice, Majles deputies, cabinet ministers, leaders of Friday congregational prayers and other people. Even I myself bear the scar of a shot that the terrorists fired at me in my home. Our leader has a crippled hand as the result of a terrorist blast in a mosque. Now the same terrorists are free to go with their businesses in the name of presidents and in other names and they have a physical presence in your legislative assemblies. Your courts of law will never want to put them on trial."

(On the forthcoming Majles elections): "I prefer to see the forthcoming Majles elections as an event which will not be within the exclusive control of any specific grouping. I would like to see all going to the ballots and casting their votes for the candidate of their choice. I trust the wholeness of the opinion of the public and I believe perfectly free elections in Iran will ensure the eventual good of the people. I intend to support the freedom of those elections.

Comments on Israel, Germany

AU0711141595 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1200 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Report by Wolfgang Labuhn in Tehran]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the death of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will have psychological effects, but will not essentially change the Middle East peace process, which in Israel is the policy of a political party, not of an individual figure. On Sunday [5 November], Rafsanjani described the assassination of Rabin as the Lord's just punishment for Rabin's — quote — state terrorist activities — unquote.

In talks with German and Iranian journalists, the Iranian president reiterated his country's position that Iran's consent to the peace process and the recognition of Israel could only be considered after all Palestinian refugees had returned to their home country and after the Palestinians had democratically voted on their political system.

Regarding German-Iranian relations, Rafsanjani regretted the negative propaganda of Zionist circles in Germany, as he put it, which had led to a poor image of Iran in Germany and to a conservative attitude of German politicians toward Iran. However, Rafsanjani paid tribute to the recent German credit facilities for Tehran in bilateral trade. Germany is Iran's most important trading partner, whereas the United States recently tightened its trade embargo against Tehran because of the Iranian Government's alleged support for terrorist organizations.

Rafsanjani welcomed the Berlin trial to clear up the assassination of Kurdish politicians-in-exile in the

Mykonos restaurant in Berlin three years ago. Several Lebanese citizens and an Iranian have been on trial for more than two years for this attack. Allegedly, the attack was masterminded by the Iranian intelligence service, which allegedly operated from Iranian diplomatic missions in Germany. The charges have seriously burdened German-Iranian relations, after Minister of State Bernd Schmidbauer confirmed under oath in court that Fallahian, Iranian information minister and intelligence chief, during a disputed visit to Germany three weeks prior to the beginning of the trial, was trying to get the German authorities to quash the trial. In his interview with German journalists, Rafsanjani described this as a — quote — big lie — unquote — and accused Germany of tolerating terrorists on German soil who were operating against Iran.

Rafsanjani described the call to murder British writer Salman Rushdie for allegedly anti-Islamic blasphemy and the money offered on Rushdie's head as the decision of, as he said verbatim, a private charitable organization, in which the Iranian Government was not involved. In this sense, the West was demonstrating, the president said, unnecessary sensitivity, and this means in other words that Iran sees no reason to change its position on the Rushdie case.

Oil Official Says Reserves at 92 Billion Barrels

LD0211175195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Although 8.42 billion barrels of oil and more than 417 billion cubic meters of gas have been extracted from the country's oil and gas reserves from the beginning of the First [Economic Development] Plan [FDP] to the end of the first six months of the current year [beginning 21 March 1995] the proven oil and gas reserves of the country at the moment are more than they were at the beginning of the FDP thanks to the discovery of new deposits.

The Oil Minister, Mr. Aqazadeh, announced the news at the General Assembly of the [Iranian] Petrochemical, Gas, and Oil Companies. He added: From the beginning of the FDP to the end of Shahrivar 1374 [month ending 22 September 1995], a period of six and half years, 8.42 billion barrels of crude oil have been extracted from the country's oil reserves. The equivalent of 5.45 billion barrels of that have been exported, earning more than $92.5 billion in foreign currency.

Mr. Aqazadeh pointed out that in that particular period more than 417 billion cubic meters of gas have been taken from the country's gas reserves, nearly 338 billion cubic meters of which have been used domestically, some has been injected into oil wells and 5.4 billion cubic meters of gas have been exported.

Regarding the discovery of new oil and gas deposits in the past few years, the oil minister said: New reserves have been discovered in the country, including 8.59 billion barrels of crude oil and 5.38 thousand billion cubic meters of gas. Based on the latest estimates, at the moment Iran possesses more than 92 billion barrels of exploitable crude oil and more than 21,000 billion cubic meters of gas reserves.

Office of Student Activists Reportedly Attacked

NC0711153895 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 7 (AFP)—Assailants attacked the offices of a group of left-wing student activists in Tehran after the students held a rally to demand a ban on a radical newspaper be lifted, a student group said Tuesday [7 November].

The guild of Islamic associations, an umbrella group of university students in Iran, said in a fax received by AFP that some 35 people broke into their offices on Monday, "stealing some properties and beating up a member."

It said the police intervened later and managed to prevent "further problems."

The attack took place after the students staged a gathering in front of a mosque in Tehran University to demand the lifting of a ban since July on the publication of a radical newspaper, PAYAM-E-DANESHJU [The Student's Message], which had become popular for its outspoken criticism of Iran's principal leaders.

The guild said the assailants were supported by Hoseyn Mar'ashi, a close aide of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Before the ban, PAYAM had repeatedly criticised a speech by Mara'shi, in which he had allegedly taken a moderate stand toward the United States.

The attack came amid growing tension between left-wing students demanding free speech and Islamic hardliners who regard any criticism as a threat to the Islamic regime in Iran.

The fundamentalists have attacked and disrupted speeches by a liberal Islamic philosopher, 'Abdolkarim Sorush, organized by the guild in universities in Tehran and central Iran.

SALAM Addresses Position of Vice Regency

95LA0377A Tehran SALAM in Persian 24 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Your positions concerning the absolute vice regency of the chief jurisconsult are dubious. Kindly announce the view of the prevailing faction in the newspaper SALAM concerning the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult.

SALAM: This respected reader has presented the subject of the absolute vice regency of the chief jurisconsult as if it were a necessity of religion or religious practice, and in using the term "dubious," he has injected a kind of threat into his question, suggesting that we must either believe in the absolute vice regency of the chief jurisconsult or else we will become dubious elements, etc.

However, for the information of this respected reader, we must say that this topic is controversial among Shiite theologians. A number of theologians believe in a limited vice regency of the chief jurisconsult where necessary, and another group of the great ones of religion believe in the absolute vice regency of the chief jurisconsult, and His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) is in the latter group.

As for the meaning of the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult, that is the idea that the Islamic ruler has the right to intervene in all matters that pertain to the management of a country and a society, the right to enjoin good and prohibit evil and make laws and regulations. It is not as if doing something or preventing something else are necessary for managing a country or preserving the nation's interests, and the Islamic ruler cannot do this or prevent it. This principle is not limited to an Islamic government. Indeed, this situation exists throughout the world and in all countries. All governments make laws and regulations and implement them within the limits of their constitutions.

Another question is: Is this vice-regency and its absolute prerogatives the prerogatives of an individual who is this fully qualified theologian, or do these prerogatives belong to the Islamic government, headed by the fully qualified theologian, with these prerogatives being distributed among the government's lawful entity in accordance with the Constitution and the pact between the nation and the government, with each body having some of these prerogatives to the extent provided in the Constitution and no body having the right to enter into the domain of the prerogatives of another body?

Clearly, those who believe that the right of the vice regent and the right to take over the affairs of the nation and the country are directly delegated to the fully qualified theologian from God and that the view of the public has no bearing on its religious legitimacy have accepted the first point of view. They believe that the absolute vice regency belongs to one person, who is this same fully-qualified theologian; that is, they believe in government by one person and that the vote of the people only has the effect of accepting this.

However, for those who believe that the vice regency is something delegated from the people and who believe that God has given the people the right to form a government for their society and their country and choose a ruler, it is clear that whoever will have this vice regency, the extent of the vice regency, and its prerogatives are subject to the views and decisions of the people. If the people delegate all of this right of vice regency and all the prerogatives that arise from it to one individual so that he can manage the country in whatever manner he deems advisable, then this one person (provided that he has the competence required under religious law) has absolute vice regency. If the people have stipulated a structure for the nation's political and executive system, have distributed power based on this structure, and have provided bodies and responsibilities for managing the country's affairs, then in this case the vice regency of any individual or any body exists to the extent that the people have stipulated (adhering to the competence required under religious law). In this case the absolute vice regency does not belong to an individual but rather to the entire Islamic government, with all the bodies stipulated in the Constitution having these absolute prerogatives, and at the head of these bodies is the fully qualified theologian.

These are very brief elements of the vast and extensive debate that exists in this area. If abusive and threatening tongues and pens allowed it, so many experts would give their views in these discussions, enriching the debate. This would also be quite useful in strengthening the Islamic system. The questions concerning the debates on the vice regency that have arisen in the minds of the young generation since the Islamic revolution must be spoken and written, and suitable and convincing answers must be given to them.

Religious discourse and learning since the dawn of Islam until now have been enriched and perfected by presenting as much information as possible, through abundant discussion and through the expression of different views and sometimes even views that deviate from the correct and genuine view. Unfortunately, when some people come to believe in something, they are very frightened of the presentation of views in conflict with their ideas, fearing that if these views are expressed, society's beliefs will be shaken. They are severely mistaken.

Response to SALAM View of Vice Regency

95LA0377B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Jul 95 pp 1, 12

[Article by Mohammad Kazem Anbarluyi: "A Talk With SALAM's Respected Managing Editor"]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Musavi Kho'iniha, the respected managing editor of the newspaper SALAM(!), knows that these days the doors to debate have been opened on government, the political philosophy of Islam, the political system, and other things. This opening is not such that there is a series of academic discussions going on in the academic circles of the seminaries and universities. Rather, it is such that the enemies of Islam refer to it as a "Renaissance"(!) and they are pointing out various "Martin Luthers" to the people.

It is no secret to anyone that all of these games and alignments are intended to aid and abet the stand against a political idea that has shaken the foundations of Western capitalism and its substance and capital and succeeded in burying the political systems based on socialism along with it!

What is this political idea? Who is its author? Who are the people who endorsed it? This idea is nothing other than the theory of the absolute vice regency of the chief jurisconsult, and the person who established it was none other than His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him). The people who endorsed it are none other than the great ones, the thinkers, and the millions of Muslims who went to the ballot boxes. It is possible that there are those who have their own special political ideas who would place limits and prerogatives on the vice regent or who would even view "vice regency" as a "public trust," and even deny the vice regency of the Prophet and the chaste imams!

We do not wish here to protest their views and ideas, but we want to say that this idea that has now come to prevail is the outcome of the intercession of a superman whose sacred name is proudly taken by today's history of humanity as the namesake of the "age."

He rose up alone and stood against all the oppressors until the people joined him and formed the first divine government based on his ideas. His theories were endorsed in two referenda on the Constitution. The people have now formed the government based on that political structure and are moving forward.

The imam (peace be upon him) saw his vice regency as follows: "I am a human being who, by means of the vice regency, has been given by the sacred law-giver..."[1] His interpretation of government was: "The absolute vice regency given by God to the Most Noble Prophet (peace be upon him)..."[2] In this respect, with respect to the limits and prerogatives of government, he saw no difference between the "Most Noble Prophet, the chaste imams, and the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult."[3] He considered that the "vice regency of the chief jurisconsult is one of the most important divine commands"[4] and also saw it as one of the "primary commands."[5]

If you were not a serious supporter of the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him) and not a serious supporter of Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him), perhaps I would have written the article addressed to you, to you and your friends who have always claimed to be standard bearers of "the Imam's line." I ask you once again to read the article that was printed on page 2 of the newspaper SALAM dated 5/2/1374 [24 July 1985]!

In this article the suggestion is made that Imam Khomeyni's point of view on the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult is one thing, and that of others is another! The meaning of this commentary may be worth considering academically, but since it was presented in a political context, its meaning is that all the suffering, hardship, sacrifice, anguish, martyrdom, and blood that was shed to establish the divine government of the Islamic Republic is wasted. Now there is a new interpretation of the government that must be pursued!

This article stated: "They have presented the subject of the absolute vice regency of the chief jurisconsult as if it were a necessity of religion or religious practice."[6] The imam says that the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult is one of the primary commands and is one of the most important divine commands. Do you believe that primary commands and divine commands are not necessities of religion?

The imam says: "The order of the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult takes precedence over all the secondary divine commands."[7] How can it be that the person himself who has such a position and sits in the seat of judgment and religious decrees, and his position, are not necessities of religion?

Do you accept the tradition that says "Islam is built on its five foundations—prayers, charity, fasting during Ramadan, the pilgrimage to Mecca, and the vice regency—and it does not call for anything that undermines the vice regency." Isn't the vice regency a religious necessity at the same level as prayer? I do not need to refer to other religious schools in Islam. I am speaking to you as a learned Shiite.

Is the meaning of the vice regency restricted to love of the imams and the house of the Prophet? Does it have nothing to do with the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult and the government?

In this article your newspaper states: The right of vice regency is something delegated from the people....those who have this vice regency, the extent of the vice regency and its prerogatives are subject to the views and decisions of the people!

This view is exactly the opposite of the imam's (peace be upon him) view, and most important of all, you have no document in religious law to support it, while at the same time it conforms to the political philosophy of liberal democracy.

Wavering to this point of view means ignoring all of the blood that has been shed for God and to elevate the words of God.

That warrior shed his blood out of devotion, went to the front and fought for the idea that the commander in chief of all the forces was the deputy of the imam of the age (may God hasten his joyful advent) and that the vice regency was assigned to him by Blessed, Almighty God.

Why do you permit the sacred symbols of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to be ignored to please the liberals? Must we adopt this blasphemy that the leaders of liberalism of our age have been shouting, that nothing is sacred?

The article in SALAM states: "The vice regency and its prerogatives do not belong to one person but to the government." The appearance of such a brilliant theory is new because it is not given in any of the theoretical schools that have been started in recent days. We hope that in the answer that, God willing, you will give, you will respond to that question.

It was also mentioned in this article, that "questions pertaining to the topic of vice regency, which after the victory of the revolution is in the minds of our young people, must be discussed, written about and answered."

Very well, you have not raised any question. You have only expressed a theory. Is a question anything other than a theory? This is also expressing a theory against the imam and the accepted principles of the people!

The theory is not even a new theory. This same debate about trusteeship is that same theory of liberal democracy with a dash of "materialistic Islam"! Why are you embarrassed to say that you believe in the "vice regency of the chief jurisconsult"?

Did the people give their blood, beat their chests under the banner of the clergy, and stand up to the shah's fascist regime and U.S. dictatorship only to get a "liberal democratic" regime?

In whose name should our government and our history record this new discovery?

In your name, Mr. Sorush, in the name of Mr. Ha'eri-Yazdi, or whose?

This government's distinction is that God rules within it. Why do we want to destroy this idea?

You, with your record of work with the National Front and the honor you have had of being one of the imam's (peace be upon him) aides and collaborators, why do you permit these thoughts and belief in opposition to the imam (peace be upon him) to be promoted and propagated by your newspaper?

That day when the imam put forth the thesis of vice regency of the chief jurisconsult, a political entity at the university which had a monopoly on political activity marched to Jamran in support of this thesis and issued a resolution. The leaders were the same people who are now writing in the newspaper SALAM and are now expressing doubts about the foundations of that same thesis (the absolute vice regency of the chief jurisconsult)! The question is, have these people set SALAM's policy with regard to the government's clearest accepted principle, even if this policy is not compatible with Imam Khomeyni's (peace be upon him) fundamental principles? Then what happened to guarding the imam's line and being loyal to it? We hope you will answer this question kindly and sincerely, God willing.

Footnotes

1. *Book of Light*, Vol. 5 at a gathering of domestic and foreign newspaper reporters, p. 31.
2. *Book of Light*, Vol. 20, answer to a letter from the president of the republic concerning government prerogatives, page 170.
3. Imam Khomeyni, *Vice Regency of the Chief Jurisconsult*, page 64.
4, 5. Ibid., and *Book of Light* volume 20, page 174, Imam Khomeyni at a meeting with Ayatollah **not legible**.
6. SALAM, "Dubious Positions," page 2, 24 July 1995.
7. Imam Khomeyni, Vol. 2, pp. 170 and 171.

Pakistan

UN Envoy Reaffirms Country's Stand on Nuclear Issue

BK0311115695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has welcomed the activity of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including in the field of electricity production. Speaking on the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency at the UN General Assembly, Pakistan delegate, Mr. Ghualm Mohammad Manika, appreciated the International Atomic Energy Agency's continued interest and support for nuclear power in view of its multiple benefits. He said Pakistan constantly adhered to and would continue to lend its full support to the agency set for nuclear safeguards. This was in conformity with Pakistan's commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

PRC's Qiao Shi Meets Bhutto, Supports Kashmir Stand

BK0511121395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting chairman of the National People's Congress of China, Mr. Qiao Shi, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the Prime Minister House today. Both the leaders reiterated the importance of traditional friendship between Pakistan and China and emphasized the need of further strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two countries. They termed the Pakistan-China ties as model relationship and said it was an all-weather and time-tested relationship between the peoples of Pakistan and China. Mr. Qiao Shi also reaffirmed China's support for Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute.

The speaker of National Assembly, Mr. Yusuf Raza Gilani, was present during the meeting.

Qiao Shi Addresses Banquet With Gilani

BK0511100895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan and China have called for peaceful solution of disputes among nations. The call was given by National Assembly Speaker Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, Chinese National People's Congress Chairman Qiao Shi at a banquet in Islamabad last night, which was hosted by Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in honor of the distinguished Chinese guest.

The speaker said the Kashmir dispute constitutes the greatest single potential threat to peace in our region. He asked China to exert its influence over India to convince it that the Kashmir dispute can only be solved through a meaningful dialogue between Pakistan and India.

Turning to bilateral relations, the National Assembly speaker pointed out that China has played a significant role in Pakistan's economic progress.

Mr. Qiao Shi hoped that all the countries in the region would properly settle problems in their bilateral relations through friendly consultations. They would treat each other as equal, carry out mutually beneficial cooperation, and seek common development on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence. The Chinese National People's Congress chairman said that Pakistan and China have fruitful cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, scientific, and technological fields. In the international affairs, he said, we have consulted each other in a friendly manner, cooperated closely, and supported each other.

The banquet was attended among others by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Malik Mohammad Qasim, Ghulam Musatafa Jatoi, Gauhar Ayub Khan, and the Chinese ambassador in Pakistan.

Earlier, Qiao Shi had a meeting with National Assembly Speaker Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in Islamabad. Gilani gave him briefing about Kahsmir dispute and its ramifications for regional peace, as well as human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

Qiao Shi stressed the need for resolution of Kashmir problem through dialogue.

Meets Leghari, Reaffirms Kashmir Policy

BK0611155595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has expressed his deep concern over India's missile program and said it was a great multiplier of tensions in the whole region. He was talking to Mr. Qiao Shi, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] today along with other members of his delegation. The president said India's Prithvi missile was Pakistan specific, and it has tremendously increased India's threat perception to Pakistan. He said that Pakistan was willing to have zero missile regime to avoid arms race in the region. The president reiterated that Pakistan wants peace with its neighbors, restoration of peace in Afghanistan, and peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem, which could not be solved through military means.

Mr. Qiao Shi expressed his full agreement with the president and reaffirmed China's policy for peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

Addresses Civic Reception in Lahore

BK0711072395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The visiting Chinese parliamentary delegation led by Qiao Shi, chairman of the National People's Congress, held a meeting with Punjab Governor Lieutenant General Raja Saroop Khan in Lahore yesterday.

Earlier, addressing a civic reception given in his honor by Lahore Metropolitan Corporation, Qiao Shi said China and Pakistan had fruitful cooperation in many fields for the betterment of the people of the two countries. Qiao Shi said his country is opposed to all forms of hegemony and will work closely with Pakistan for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region on the basis of equal sovereignty.

Commentary Welcomes Visit

BK0511132695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Nov 95

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Friendship between Pakistan and China is unique in the sense that it is taken for granted no matter what the political climate of the world. Visits of dignitaries between the two have become a routine. Even so, the visit of the chairman of the National People's Congress to Pakistan is an event of very special significance. The parliament of a nation is one of the pillars of the state. In China, this body has some very special significance. It is not often that the chairman of the National People's congress undertakes foreign trips. Chairman Qiao Shi's visit to Pakistan is, therefore, a great deal more than a formality. This is clearly borne out by the arrival statement of Mr. Qiao Shi, in which he emphasized that the friendship between his great country and Pakistan was in the fundamental interest of the two nations and conducive to peace and stability in Asia.

There can be no doubt that this friendship has been the stabilizing factor throughout the past half century, which has seen much turmoil in South Asia. Usually it is understood that relations between states are based on self-interest. Relations between this country and China have certainly served the best interests of both friends; but, for the most part, a spirit of selflessness has characterized this equation. These two have been friends in need and, thus, beyond any doubt friends indeed. Chairman of the National People's Congress, Mr. Qiao Shi, noted in his statement that relations between Islamabad and Beijing have developed in all spheres and represent a remarkably fruitful achievement of both. This is by no means a diplomatic hyperbole.

Pakistan-China relations encompass a wide range of activity in both countries. In the fields of agriculture, science, and technology, prospecting and development of subsoil resources like gas, oil, and minerals, Pakistan and China work hand in hand. It must also be said that this close cooperation is not entirely centered on the profit motive in the narrow and short-term calculations. That is one basic reason why this relationship is above and beyond transient considerations of the moment. Over the years, China and Pakistan have undergone many changes of fundamental nature. But this relationship has remained unaltered in any way.

For this extraordinary phenomenon, the one and only explanation is that people of Pakistan and China cherish this friendship. While governments change, even systems undergo adjustments, the people and their aspirations remain a permanent reality. This reality has ensured that the friendship cherished by the two people shall not be affected by any eventuality. The chairman of China's parliament, Mr. Qiao Shi, was only confirming a reality and a fact of life when he said that the friendship between Pakistan and China have stood the test of time. Indeed it has, in so remarkable a manner that the world not be able to present any parallel.

During his visit, the distinguished Chinese guest will have meetings with the president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. This high-level visit of a leader from China highlights the fact that friendship between Pakistan and China has been and will remain a guiding principle for the governments of both countries.

The general policies of both countries derive meaning and direction from this guiding principle. The Pakistan-China horizons are without the speck of a cloud, and yet even the sky is not the limit. It was to emphasize this point that Mr. Qiao Shi has spoken of upgrading this bilateral friendship to a new height. So profound is the friendship between Islamabad and Beijing that there will always be room for expansion and more and more of variation. The peoples on both sides will look forwards to this kind of progress as a direct result of this most welcome visit.

Leghari, French Army Chief Discuss Defense, Issues

BK0311130195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 Nov 95 p 12

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — French Chief of Army Staff General Marc Monchal held extensive talks with President Farooq Leghari and defence managers to promote mutual understanding and strengthen friendly relations between Pakistan and France, specially in the defence sector.

The French general, who arrived late Wednesday on a five-day visit to Pakistan, spent a busy day with his meetings with President Farooq Leghari, Army Chief General Abdul Waheed and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Abdas Khattak.

"The general has held broad-based frank talks with these Pakistani leaders, besides attending briefing on the geopolitical scenario in the region at the GHQ [General Headquarters] and exchanging views of professional importance with General Waheed and Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak, " said official sources.

General Monchal has arrived here just a day following the conclusion of Pak-French Armament Collaboration talks and this reflects greatly that the two countries enjoy tremendous goodwill and wants to strengthen these relations.

Recognising his services in promoting mutual understanding and goodwill between Islamabad and Paris, President Leghari conferred "Nishan-i-Imtiaz" (military) on General Monchal in a special investiture ceremony, held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

In his visit to the GHQ, the French general exchanged views with General Waheed. "Matters concerning professional interest came under discussion between the two generals," said sources. General Monchal also met Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak in his office and exchanged views on matters of professional significance.

Earlier, on his arrival, the visiting French Army chief was received by General Waheed, Corps Commander Lt Gen Ali Kulli Khan.

Bhutto's Speech in Iranian Parliament Viewed

BK0811030795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Commentary by Waqar Aziz]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto while addressing the Iranian parliament in Tehran this morning has touched upon a number of issues of international, regional, and bilateral importance. These include the Indian occupation of Kashmir, Bosnian tragedy, ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, and India's stockpiling of deadly weapons causing security concern for the surrounding countries. The prime minister also highlighted the deep-rooted relations between Pakistan and Iran.

Referring to Kashmir issue as a major regional conflict which still continues to cast dark shadows on the international horizon, she said the UN secretary general has described this dispute as one of the oldest unresolved items on the agenda of the world body. The Kashmir dispute must therefore be resolved through a United Nations supervised plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir as provided in the resolutions of the world body. The so-called elections being arranged by India in the occupied Kashmir will never satisfy the people of Kashmir who are demanding their fundamental right of self determination. This is indeed ridiculous that India is thinking of holding elections in the occupied Kashmir with its more than 600,000 army stationed in the disputed territory. How can free and fair elections be held in an atmosphere of terror and brutality? India has already indulged in this futile exercise many times. The people of Kashmir boycotted these so-called elections and the whole exercise fizzled out. Once again the Indian attempt to hold fake elections in the occupied Kashmir would end in a failure because the political parties of Kashmiri people have made it clear that they are not going to accept anything other than their right of self-determination.

The prime minister while addressing the Iranian parliament paid rich tributes to the indomitable spirit of the Kashmiri people who continue to struggle for their right of self-determination in the face of worst kind of repression by 600,000 Indian occupying troops deployed in the valley. She appreciated Iran's staunch support for the cause of the Kashmiri people. She quoted from a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Pakistan's parliament describing Kashmir as a problem shared by both Pakistan and Iran. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expressed concern over the Indian stockpiling of deadly weapons which include missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads to the neighboring and distant countries and called for a regional solution to the missile issue.

About Afghanistan, the prime minister emphasized that Pakistan remains impartial in the internal conflict in Afghanistan and is not providing any material or military assistance to any faction. Pakistan wants Afghans to solve their problems with their own efforts and without any external intervention. Referring to the Bosnian tragedy, she said it has made one thing clear that each nation must be prepared to defend itself.

Coming to the Pakistan-Iran relations, Ms. Benazir Bhutto declared amidst thumping of desks by Iranian parliamentarians that friendship between Pakistan and Iran is solidly based on principles. That is the friendship because of geography, religion, and mutual trust. She declared that both Pakistan and Iran know that they can rely on each other in the event of any danger to their national security. Both the countries believe in the concept of Islamic unity and support Muslim causes all over the world.

Sri Lanka

'Key' Tamil Politicians Demand Immediate Truce

BK0511123295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1206 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 5 (AFP) — Key Tamil politicians Sunday [5 November] demanded an immediate truce in the Sri Lankan fighting as security forces and Tamil rebels were poised for a do- or-die battle for control of the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Seven Tamil political parties, including three with 17 members in the 225-member parliament, urged the government and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to enter into talks and halt fighting.

Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman, who called the meeting, said there should also be access for international relief agencies to continue humanitarian aid to nearly half a million Tamils displaced by the fighting.

The United Nations has already appealed for aid for up to 400,000 people fleeing the fighting but the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga said Saturday that it was capable of handling the crisis.

Thondaman's suggestion earlier to give the administration of the northern Jaffna peninsula to the LTTE for five years was rejected outright by Kumaratunga who ordered the current crackdown against the rebels.

As the army built defences and continued de-mining areas taken from the LTTE inside the Jaffna peninsula, the rebels exploded a powerful motorcycle bomb in the island's eastern town of Ampara Sunday, killing two and wounding 37.

The LTTE has been accused of massacring Sinhalese peasants in the Amapara district in a bid to blunt the army offensive underway in the Jaffna peninsula since October 17, its biggest offensive to date.

The bomb attack came as the country was placed on red alert for possible retaliatory attacks from the LTTE which is fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the island's northern and eastern regions.

A police official said that a house-to-house search operation was launched in the capital and elsewhere in the country during the weekend as part of a crackdown on Tamil Tigers who may have infiltrated the city.

Schools across the country have shut indefinitely amid fears of rebel attacks but the LTTE denied they planned such reprisals and said the "real reason" for the closure was a shortage of fuel in the country.

The Tigers blew up the oil depots three days after the military began its offensive against the LTTE with the objective of taking the northern town of Jaffna which had been under rebel rule for five years.

Travellers from the Jaffna region said that the LTTE used loud hailers to order thousands of civilians to flee the Walikamam sector, which includes Jaffna town, where the army is conducting its campaign.

They said the LTTE's de facto immigration office which issued "visas" to those leaving rebel-held territory had moved out of Jaffna town while the LTTE's political headquarters at Kondavil remained closed.

The refugees were moving to the Thenamarachchi region in the south of the peninsula where there has been no fighting, travellers arriving at the government-held town of Vavuniya said.

However, the LTTE said its administration remained in Jaffna despite the army drive. Security forces have advanced within 4.5 kilometres (three miles) of Jaffna town limits but there was no fighting overnight, a military statement said.

Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said the army was moving slowly to avoid unnecessary casualties. However, he said the current operation code-named Riviresa (sunshine) was a "fight to the finish."

"For the past four days we are clearing mines. There has been no attacks from the LTTE," Munasinghe said adding that Tigers were moving their office to prevent documents falling into the hands of the army.

The LTTE in a statement from its London office Sunday denied that it ordered Tamil civilians to flee but the people were leaving on their own to avoid being hit by shells and mortar bombs fired by army.

"This mass exodus of people has caused discomfiture to the government which had claimed that one of the objectives of this military operation was to liberate Tamils from the LTTE," the Tiger statement said.

'Dismay' Expressed Over UN Official's Statement

BK0811113595 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0958 GMT 8 Nov 95

["Pool item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 8 Nov (LANKAPUVATH) — Sri Lanka has expressed dismay about a reference to a statement issued by the spokesman for the Secretary General of the United Nations on 3 November 1995, concerning relief assistance to displaced in Sri Lanka.

Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar in a communication addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said:

"That despite the terrorist-initiated violence that has plagued Sri Lanka for over a decade the government of Sri Lanka has given the highest consideration to the humanitarian needs of the people in northern Sri Lanka and has been supplying essential food and other items to them with the full knowledge that a substantial portion of the supply is appropriated by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

These facts were duly appreciated by the late James P. Grant, the former Executive Director of UNICEF who described the government's efforts as uniquely humanitarian in a conflict situation. Similar sentiments were expressed by Francis Dong, the United Nations special rapporteur on internally-displaced persons.

The Government of Sri Lanka was therefore dismayed to see the statement issued by Secretary General's spokesman on 3 November 1995, the contents of which appear to derive from conclusions arrived at [words indistinct] the full facts of a complex internal situation.

The government has accorded and will continue to accord, the highest priority for ensuring the welfare of the civilians in northern Sri Lanka despite the clearly evident attempt on the part of the LTTE to create forcible displacement of civilians. In continuation of the government's policy in this regard, a comprehensive set of measures has already been put in place to supply the essential needs of the affected population with the assistance of the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] and other nongovernmental organisations which we are inviting to join this effort".

Relief Effort Said Begun; Foreign Aid Kept Out

BK0711063995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0556 GMT 7 Nov 95

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 7 (AFP) — Sri Lanka on Tuesday [7 November] began shipping aid to thousands of civilians displaced by fighting between advancing troops and Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the country's north, officials here said.

A shipment of 1,000 tonnes of flour was sent from here and would reach the port of Point Pedro in Jaffna peninsula on Sri Lanka's northern tip later Tuesday, the officials said.

The food would be distributed among the refugees, who are massing in the southern part of Jaffna as well as in neighbouring Kilinochchi district, by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The shipment began hours after Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar slammed the United Nations for voicing "deep concern" over the refugees, and ruled out any direct involvement for international agencies in the mercy mission.

Officials said two more ships with 3,900 tonnes of food would soon reach Jaffna, where Sri Lankan troops launched a massive offensive on October 17 against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"There is no shortage of food," asserted Defence Secretary Chandrananda de Silva. "Only a shortage created by a distribution problem. Otherwise, we do not need anyone's help to handle this situation."

Sri Lankan officials say the relief food and other materials can only be handled by the government, but that it can be distributed by international aid agencies active in the country's north where Colombo's writ does not run.

De Silva said all material help offered by foreign organisations must be channelled through the government, which has set up a body to co-ordinate the massive relief effort.

Foreign non-governmental agencies already operating in Sri Lanka's embattled north would be permitted to continue their "normal work," but any "enhanced activity" must be under government supervision, officials said.

Kadirgamar late Monday flayed UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus- Ghali for voicing concern last week about the situation in Sri Lanka "without the full knowledge of the available facts."

He said Butrus-Ghali went ahead with his statement despite pleadings by Colombo. The foreign minister put the number of displaced people at about 100,000. Tamil politicians and travellers from Jaffna say up to 300,000 have been displaced.

"We are sure they (refugees) will be able to return home soon," he said.

"We have already given a response (to the UN chief) by saying we can take care of our problem," said Kadirgamar, a member of the minority Tamil community. "But I will be sending him a sharper reply."

Kadirgamar declined to discuss the military situation in the north, where army troops are conducting their biggest offensive against the LTTE in a bid to wrest the sprawling Jaffna, which has been ruled by the rebels since 1990.

Tens of thousands have fled their homes to escape heavy fighting in Jaffna. LTTE's critics say the Tigers were forcing the exodus so as to lead to international intervention.

The advancing army is barely 4.5 kilometres (three miles) away from the town of Jaffna, a citadel of the LTTE.

At least 221 security forces and 830 Tamil rebels have died in the latest offensive. Sri Lanka has been put under an unprecedented security blanket, with all schools shut indefinitely, to prevent retaliatory attacks by the LTTE.

More than 50,000 people have died in Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist conflict. The LTTE wants a homeland for Tamils in the island's northeast.

Daily Interviews LTTE Leaders

BK0411135195 Delhi OUTLOOK in English
8 Nov 95 pp 26, 27

["Excerpts" of interview with LTTE Chief Theoretician Anton Balasingham, and Baby Subramaniam, head of the movement's education and Tamil language affairs, by OUTLOOK Bureau Chief A.S. Paneerselvan in Jaffna; date not given — individual responses not attributed]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Paneerselvan] Why did you kill Rajiv Gandhi?

[Answer] I've the same answer for this oft-repeated question. We did not kill Rajiv Gandhi.

[Paneerselvan] The investigations are over and the Special Investigation Team charge sheet clearly states that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had assassinated Rajiv.

[Answer] No, the trial is still going on. The Indian Government so far has not proved the LTTE'S involvement in the assassination. As far as Prabhakaran's extradition is concerned, it is an academic matter. Everybody knows it's practically impossible for the Sri Lankan Government to catch Prabhakaran. The Indian Army was here for two years and couldn't do it. The extradition request is a political move to discredit the LTTE rather than a practical way to get at the truth.

[Paneerselvan] Why should the LTTE be targeted?

[Answer] Any comments will have serious implications. We were not involved in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi.

[Paneerselvan] Recent Indian intelligence reports say you are planning to eliminate top Indian leaders, including Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

[Answer] This is not true. I think some vested interests are spreading these rumours.

[Paneerselvan] What is the role of the LTTE in India?

[Answer] As far as the LTTE is concerned, we consider India a friendly ally. Even now, we don't have any animosity towards the Indian Government and people. We are not involved in any insurrectionary or terrorist movements in India. The LTTE will not contribute to or get involved in the Indian secessionist politics. It is not going to act in any manner inimical to the national and the geopolitical interests of India. Our struggle for self-determination here is legitimate. It is primarily because of the intolerable state oppression.

[Paneerselvan] But why should the LTTE generate such a fear psychosis in India?

[Answer] Our struggle is not properly understood. And that has led to the problems between the Indian Government and the LTTE. India's intervention at that time was to strengthen the hands of the Tamil freedom movement. Besides, they had their own political objectives. India thought it should align with the former Soviet Union to prevent the spread of US imperialism in the Indian Ocean. But now in a new world order old alliances have snapped. In this context, India feels that our liberation struggle is no longer valid. Therefore, it is untenable to maintain the present level of hostility towards us. We need the support of the people, political parties and the Indian Government.

[Paneerselvan] But your internal discussions reveal that you still suspect India. In the Mahattaya case (the LTTE deputy leader who was arrested by the Tigers' intelligence wing in 1993), it was charged that he was collaborating with the Indian State.

[Answer] The struggle of the Tamil people is legitimate. We have nobody. We have no sympathisers anywhere — neither in Tamil Nadu nor in India. So the Indian position has helped the Sri Lankan racist state to intensify its operations. We are concerned that the Indian attitude — which is hostile — helps Sri Lanka in pursuing its ruthless policy against our people.

[Paneerselvan] You have not answered my question. There is talk in Jaffna that the various jail-breaks by LTTE cadres in Tamil Nadu were not jail-breaks but efforts by India to send back some cadres who could gain access to Prabhakaran and kill him.

[Answer] I can't comment on that. There is some element of truth in the RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] intrigues. We know very well that they might send agents to kill LTTE leaders or assassinate Prabhakaran. We don't want to talk about it.

[Paneerselvan] What happened to Mahattaya?

[Answer] He was arrested and subjected to interrogation for one year. We found him guilty and he was sentenced to death. He was involved in a plot to kill Prabhakaran and take over the LTTE.

[Paneerselvan] Is there any room for a negotiated settlement now?

[Answer] You will have to ask the Sri Lankan Government this question because it has ruled out a negotiated settlement. Our door for peace is open. We are for peace provided the Sri Lankan Government stops the war and creates conditions for normalcy in the north and east.

[Paneerselvan] But they say you unilaterally called off talks and resumed hostilities.

[Answer] Parleys were held for six months. There were four rounds of talks in Jaffna. Fifty letters were exchanged between Prabhakaran and Chandrika Kumaratunge. We asked for an embargo relaxation. We asked the government to permit the people to use the land route by relocating the Pooneryan camp. Mind you, we did not ask for the withdrawal of the camp. These were not the demands of the LTTE, but of the people. If the government wanted to act, it could have done so in 24 hours. If it is not prepared to meet this small demand, how can we expect it to resolve major problems.

[Paneerselvan] What about the latest Lankan offensive? There is a qualitative difference between the current offensive and the past ones.

[Answer] This is the first time that all troops have moved into the Peninsula. Forces have been pulled out of the east and consequently, we have taken it over. Colombo is under an illusion about winning the war. Even if they take over Jaffna, it will not be a military success. The North-east is a vast area and our guerrilla movement cannot be crushed in conventional battle. The Indian Army realised this truth after a two year bloody conflict. The Lankan forces can take over the territory. But they cannot hold on. We'll strike back.

[Paneerselvan] But Jaffna Peninsula is not just a territory, it is the symbol and metaphor of the LTTE resistance. If the army captures Jaffna, will it not be able to start a dialogue with a weakened LTTE?

[Answer] First, to take over Jaffna is not easy. Secondly, it took the Indian Army, a much larger and sophisticated force, two months to force, but things have changed. We are stronger now. Suppose they succeed in taking over Jaffna, they cannot take over the entire territory. Do they want to leave the entire Wanni Jungle region and the other three districts in the east to us?

[Paneerselvan] I am not talking about this aspect. What will the metaphorical and psychological impact of the capture of Jaffna be?

[Answer] As a guerrilla movement, we do not attach any metaphorical or symbolical importance to any place. We attach importance to mobility. The LTTE will not talk from a position of weakness. Military pressure will not force us to talk. Concentrating only on the north actually means that the east is virtually free for us. We are not going to keep quiet there.

[Paneerselvan] Do you mean the government is unaware of its vulnerability in the east?

[Answer] There is no military strategy behind this war. It is the outcome of the government's desire to dominate Tamils and destroy Jaffna, a desire which has been there for 2,000 years. It is not Chandrika's strategy. Believe it or not, we have been fighting the Sinhalese for 2,000 years. The very idea of a military conquest of the Tamil people is wrong. It is essentially racism.

[Paneerselvan] What about the present package announced by the government?

[Answer] With bombs falling on our heads, we do not have time to discuss such proposals. We are at war with the government. We are clearing our guns and have no time to go through this document. The proposals were not sent to us. The proposal itself is a tragedy. It talks of peace through war. It is aimed at deflecting the international community's attention from the ongoing repressions and genocide in the north.

[Paneerselvan] Do you think you can win independence on military terms?

[Answer] Independence is the wrong word. It is our right to decide our political destiny. That is the meaning of "right of self-determination". The LTTE is a result of the state military operation. For four decades we have had non-violent struggle. We are confident that one day the Tamils of south India, the Indian Government and the world community will recognise our legitimate struggle. But if Colombo decides to stop the war and settles for a negotiated settlement, we are prepared to accept it. We have even suggested that a federal form of autonomy is acceptable to us.

[Paneerselvan] Very few believe that you are ready for a plural society. The forceful eviction of the Muslims from the north is cited as an example of your intolerance.

[Answer] It was an unfortunate affair and we apologise. But there was communal tension and we asked them to leave the place without doing any harm to them. It was a mistake. We have told them that they have an inalienable right to live in peace in the North-east. Once normalcy is restored, they can return to their homes.

[Paneerselvan] Prabhakaran has been compared by some to Mandela, by others to Arafat, Netaji, Stalin, Hitler or Pol Pot. How do you describe him?

[Answer] Prabhakaran is a national hero. He is a military genius too. One essential difference between Prabhakaran and the other leaders is his deep commitment to the cause. Even under Indian military pressure he was prepared to die rather than give up. He is generally misunderstood by others. Our methods of warfare are unacceptable to various people. But Prabhakaran as well as our movement had survived precisely because of these. This is the only struggle that has been going on for 20 years without any assistance from anywhere. The willingness of our cadres to die for our cause must be viewed as self sacrifice rather than as self-destruction. This structure which has been created by Prabhakaran must be understood and not undermined.

Airport Reportedly Introduces Security Measures

BK0311150295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1423 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 3 (AFP) — Sri Lanka on Friday [3 November] announced sweeping measures as part of a tight security plan to protect the main international airport amid fears it may be targeted by Tamil guerrillas.

Passengers leaving the island will be required to submit their baggage for security checks outside the main Colombo international airport under new security measures that would come into effect Monday, officials said.

After security checks are completed at a building located near the airport complex, passengers and baggage would be transported to the departure terminal in a shuttle bus service, an official statement issued here said.

The new requirements were being introduced to boost security at the airport following intelligence reports it may be attacked by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), officials said.

Passengers arriving in the country would be transported to the airport car park in the shuttle bus service, the statement said.

The tight security measures followed an hour-long meeting Thursday between airport authorities and Information, Tourism and Aviation Minister, Dharmasiri Senanayake on new security arrangements to prevent LTTE attacks.

In June, the Ellalan Force, a shadowy Tamil group believed to be a front for the Tigers, claimed responsibility for an abortive car- bomb attack at the airport.

Security has been tightened in the capital since October 20 when the LTTE carried out a spectacular rocket attack on two main oil storage plants in the capital, leaving 22 security personnel and seven Tiger militants dead.

The LTTE is seeking to carve an independent nation in the northern and eastern regions for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils.

LTTE 'Guerrillas' Reportedly Blow Up Oil Tanker

BK0411090395 Hong Kong AFP in English
0707 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 4 (AFP) — Tamil guerrillas on Saturday [4 November] blew up an oil tanker in Sri Lanka's east but there were no casualties as the blast failed to set off three other tankers and a fuel storage depot nearby, police said.

The rebel attack came as the United Nations appealed for urgent relief for hundreds of thousands of civilians fleeing fighting in the island's north.

Guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) set off the explosion before dawn at the railway station in the eastern town of Batticaloa, destroying the rail tanker filled with linseed oil, police said.

The tanker carried 8,500 gallons (32,300 litres) of linseed oil, the local police said. But the deafening blast miraculously failed to hit three other tankers and a fuel storage depot.

"Timely intervention by our men prevented a major disaster," said a police officer by telephone from Batticaloa, some 300 kilometers (156 miles) from here in Sri Lanka's embattled northeast.

The attack came two weeks after the Tamil Tiger guerrillas blew up Sri Lanka's two main oil storage plants in Colombo in a spectacular pre-dawn rocket attack that stunned the authorities.

On Friday, the LTTE announced it was withdrawing its administrative offices from the battle zone to a nearby place in the northern Jaffna peninsula, where the army launched a massive offensive on October 17.

Analysts said the rebel move indicated that the Tigers were hoping to cut their losses as thousands of troops were consolidating in newly-captured areas, and were only 4.5 kilometers (three miles) from the LTTE-held Jaffna town. The Tiger move came as UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali appealed for massive assistance for up to 400,000 people fleeing bitter fighting between the LTTE and advancing troops in Jaffna.

Butrus-Ghali on Friday called on "all concerned to facilitate relief assistance to the affected population by humanitarian organisations," spokesman Juan-Carlos Brandt said in New York.

"Reports of the massive displacement of the civilian population in northern Sri Lanka are a source of deep concern to the secretary general," he added, and said the United Nations was following the situation closely.

There was no reaction on the appeal from Colombo, which is seeking to wrest control of Jaffna, which has been ruled by the LTTE as a de facto independent state, since 1990.

Tamil politicians here, however, welcomed the UN concern.

Tamil sources said thousands of civilians were fleeing Jaffna peninsula by boat to the LTTE-held Kilinochchi in the mainland with barely any personal belongings.

A senior government official in Kilinochchi, 320 kilometers (200 miles) north of here, said nearly 60,000 refugees had poured into the area from Jaffna and the total would reach 300,000 soon.

"More than 10,000 people are streaming it every day," said the official, Thillai Natarajah, speaking in the government-held town of Vavuniya. "Most people are housed in school buildings and temples.

"But the situation is getting desperate," he said. "Many of those were drenched in rain and without a second set of clothes." He added that there were food shortages.

Tamil sources said the LTTE was operating some 250 boats across a lagoon to transport the thousands of Tamil civilians from Jaffna.

On Friday, the government began sending food by ships and trucks to Jaffna for the refugees. But a Tamil politician here said it wasn't enough.

"The government's response is very slow," said Dharmaling Sithadthan.

The LTTE is waging a protracted war for a homeland in Sri Lanka's northeast in which more than 50,000 people have died. Some 220 security forces and nearly 850 guerrillas have died in fighting since October 17.

LTTE Said Preparing 'Last Stand' for Jaffna

BK0611071395 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 5 Nov 95

[Report by Ananth Palakidnar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] rebels are laying mines and digging in for a "last stand" against Army units advancing on Jaffna city, travellers from the North said yesterday. The city is fast emptying as civilians fled the area for the safety of the Thenmarachi area in the Southern part of the Peninsula, reports indicated.

A civilian who had come to Colombo a few days ago from Jaffna said that civilians in Jaffna had begun leaving early to escape the anticipated pitched battle for Jaffna. "The civilians in hundreds and thousands have already fled to Chavakachcheri, the capital town of Thenmarachi region" he added.

Chavakachcheri looks like a vast gypsy camp site where thousands of civilians have found shelter under huge banyan trees, travellers said.

Meanwhile, the Tamil parties who are closely watching the LTTE activities in Jaffna said that normally in November every year the LTTE launches its Martyrs day celebrations, which ends up on November 26, apparently the date also falls on the B' day of LTTE supremo V. Prabhakaran. Mr. Prabhakaran who will be on his 41st birthday this November 26 is expected to announce his present position on the current situation.

He has been announcing his policy speech over his own transmission 'Voice of Tigers' for the past five years annually.

Last November he paid tributes to President Chandrika Kumaratunga for taking peace initiatives and also said that his organisation was prepared to consider the Federal system of administration for the North and the East.

Military Officials Said Expecting 'Heavy Fighting'

BK0611072595 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thousands of troops engaged in Operation Riviresa are consolidating their positions in the newly captured areas, defence sources said Sunday [5 November].

They said troops are clearing minefields before resuming their advance. Heavy fighting is expected ahead with rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], according to military officials.

There has been no LTTE attacks after three of their attempts to infiltrate the security forces' defences proved unsuccessful and left hundreds of LTTE cadres dead.

The troops, backed by air cover, armour and artillery, and operating in two flanks, are 4.5 km away from the outer limits of Jaffna city, the military and spiritual centre of the Tamil rebels.

Security forces which began the operation on October 17 from the sprawling Palaly military complex have so far captured and consolidated their positions in Achchelu, Puttur, Urelu and Neerveli, which the Tigers considered as a vital strategic defence point for Jaffna.

Nearly 1,000 rebels have been killed during Operation Riviresa which a top military official described as an "offensive planned in such a manner as to fight to a finish in Jaffna". Over 3,000 LTTE cadres have received severe injuries.

The security forces' death toll has reached 221 including seven officers. Twenty-four officers and 512 other rankers have been wounded.

LTTE 'Guerrillas' Reportedly Ambush Army Patrol

BK0611123095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 6 Nov 95

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] COLOMBO, Nov 6 (AFP) — [passage omitted] The arrests came as LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] guerrillas ambushed an army patrol in eastern Sri Lanka early Monday [6 November], killing at least 12 soldiers for the loss of one of their own cadres, defence sources here said.

LTTE gunmen attacked the troops at a coastal village in the district of Batticaloa, which forms part of Sri Lanka's embattled northeastern region, the sources said. Three soldiers escaped with injuries.

Army reinforcements which rushed to the site shot dead one of the guerrillas.

Five more LTTE guerrillas were killed in a separate confrontation with troops in the northeastern region of Weli Oya late Sunday, the military said.

The renewed violence came as thousands of soldiers backed by artillery guns consolidated their positions in areas captured from the LTTE in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, which the Tigers have ruled since 1990.

More than 221 soldiers and some 830 rebels have died in the latest offensive, code-named Rivirasa (sunshine), according to military estimates. The drive is aimed at seizing Jaffna from the LTTE.

"We are still consolidating in areas we captured from the LTTE," spokesman Munasinghe said. "We need to consolidate before we advance."

He said troops were barely 4.5 kilometers (three miles) from Jaffna town, the citadel of the LTTE. He declined to say when the army planned to resume its campaign amid monsoon rains lashing the region.

"The rains are certainly a problem for heavy vehicles," he said.

As the military maintained its grip on the Jaffna peninsula, security has been tightened across the country with all schools shut indefinitely to prevent retaliatory attacks by the LTTE.

Nearly 400,000 people have been displaced by the fighting in the north and relief agencies have reported problems in transporting urgently needed food and medicine to people sheltering in overcrowded camps.

More than 50,000 people have died in the Tamil separatist conflict in the past 23 years.